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## EDITORIAL DECLARATION

Dear authors and readers,

First of all, we would like to thank you for being our travel companion by writing, evaluating, and reading us about this broadcasting life we started five years ago. With these thoughts, we are especially thankful for researchers and academicians honoring with the articles, valuable scientists involved in editorial boards, and reviewers for their contributions to the evaluation processes through their opinions/ideas/contributions/criticisms. With this article, we wanted to inform you, our valuable stakeholders, about the development of The Black Sea Journal of Public and Social Science (BSJ Pub Soc Sci). The statistics of the BSJ Pub Soc Sci for the last four years are given below. Hope you will be with us in future issues.

Year	Articles	Cites	Cite Index*	CNA	CNC	CCI
2018	10	8	0,8	10	8	0,8
2019	14	8	0,57	24	16	0,67
2020	12	4	0,33	36	20	0,56
2021	13	8	0,62	49	28	0,57

CNA= cumulative number of articles, CNC= cumulative number of cite, CCI= cumulative cite index

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Volume 5, Issue 1 (2022)

Table of Contents

Research Article

**1. AGGRESSION LEVELS AND AFFECTING FACTORS OF HEALTHCARE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS** 

*(Sağlık hizmetleri meslek yüksekokulu öğrencilerinin saldırganlık düzeyleri ve etkileyen faktörler)*

*Ahmet SEVEN, Hanifi DÜLGER.....1-6*

**2. THE CORRELATIONS BETWEEN SERVANT LEADERSHIP PERCEPTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL CYNICISM AND BURNOUT LEVELS OF ANKARA DIRECTORATE OF PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EMPLOYEES** 

*(Ankara il tarım ve orman müdürlüğü çalışanlarında hizmetli liderlik algıları ile organizasyon sınırlığı ve tükenmişlik düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkiler)*

*Halil Özcan ÖZDEMİR, Hilal YAZICI.....7-16*

**3. DETERMINING THE GLOBAL CORONA AGENDA VIA GOOGLE TRENDS** 

*(Google trends üzerinden küresel korona gündeminin belirlenmesi)*

*Sevim ÇİMKE, Dilek YILDIRIM GÜRKAN.....17-21*

**4. HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW OF THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED AFTER 2008 RUSSO-GEORGIAN WAR** 

*(2008 Rusya-Gürcistan savaşından sonra işgal edilen bölgelere tarihi-coğrafi bir bakış)*

*Giorgi SOSIASHVILI.....22-27*

**5. ANTI-STATE POLICY OF OSSETIANS RESIDING IN GEORGIA IN 1918-1921** 

*(1918-1921 yıllarında Gürcistan'da yerleştirilen Osetlilerin devlet karşıtı politikaları)*

*Aleksandre MGHEBRISHVILI.....28-36*



## SAĞLIK HİZMETLERİ MESLEK YÜKSEKOKULU ÖĞRENCİLERİNİN SALDIRGANLIK DÜZEYLERİ VE ETKİLEYEN FAKTÖRLER

Ahmet SEVEN<sup>1</sup>, Hanifi DÜLGER<sup>2\*</sup>

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**Özet:** Bu çalışma, sağlık hizmetleri meslek yüksekokulu öğrencilerinin saldırganlık düzeyleri ve etkileyen faktörlerini belirlemek amacıyla yapıldı. Çalışma, Eylül-Ekim 2019 tarihleri arasında çalışmaya katılmayı kabul eden 207 sağlık hizmetleri meslek yüksekokulu öğrencisiyle tanımlayıcı olarak yapıldı. Veriler sosyo-demografik özellikleri içeren soru formu ve Türkçe geçerliği ve güvenilirliği 2012 yılında Madran tarafından yapılan 29 madde ve 4 alt boyuttan oluşan Buss-Perry Saldırganlık Ölçeği (BPSÖ) kullanılarak toplandı. Verilerin analizi bilgisayar ortamında; yüzdeler, ortalama, parametrik ve nonparametrik testler kullanılarak yapıldı. Yaş ortalaması 20,77±2,91 olan öğrencilerin %71'i kadın, %35,3'ü Anadolu lisesi mezunu, %81,2'si orta gelirli, %37,2'si çocukluğunu il merkezinde geçirmiş ve %70'i çekirdek aile yapısına sahiptir. Öğrencilerin anne (%47,8) ve baba (%36,2) eğitim düzeylerinin ilköğretim olduğu, çoğunluğunun ise sigara (%70,5) ve alkol (%76,3) kullanmadığı tespit edildi. Öğrencilerin BPSÖ toplam puan ortalaması 72,78±1,72 olup ölçek alt boyut puan ortalamaları sırasıyla 19,19±5,53 (fiziksel saldırganlık), 13,57±2,91 (sözel saldırganlık), 18,01±5,91 (öfke) ve 21,99±5,99 (düşmanlık) olduğu görüldü. Yaş, bölüm, mezun olunan lise, aile yapısı, gelir durumu, çocukluğunu geçirdiği yer, alkol kullanma durumu ve baba eğitim düzeylerinin BPSÖ toplam ve alt boyut ölçek puanlarını etkilemediği saptandı (P > 0,05). Çalışmada "cinsiyet" değişkeni ile BPSÖ fiziksel saldırganlık ve düşmanlık alt boyut puan ortalamaları arasında anlamlı fark olduğu, erkeklerin kadınlara göre fiziksel saldırganlık puanlarının ve kadınların ise erkeklere göre düşmanlık alt boyut puanlarının daha yüksek olduğu belirlendi (P < 0,05). "Sigara kullanma" değişkeni ile BPSÖ fiziksel saldırganlık puan ortalamaları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde fark olduğu, sigara kullananların fiziksel saldırganlık puanlarının daha yüksek olduğu görüldü (P < 0,05). Anne eğitimi lise düzeyinde olan öğrencilerin fiziksel saldırganlık puan ortalamalarının anlamlı olarak yüksek olduğu saptandı (P < 0,05). Çalışmada sağlık hizmetleri meslek yüksekokulu öğrencilerinin saldırganlık durumlarının orta düzeyde olduğu; cinsiyet, anne eğitim düzeyi ve sigara kullanma durumlarının saldırganlık düzeylerini etkilediği görüldü.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Düşmanlık, Öfke, Öğrenci, Saldırganlık

### Aggression Levels and Affecting Factors of Healthcare Vocational School Students

**Abstract:** This research aims to determine the aggression levels and the influencing factors among the healthcare vocational school students. The descriptive and cross-sectional study was conducted with 207 students who were enrolled at the healthcare vocational school and agreed to participate, from September to October 2019. The data were collected by using a questionnaire form for socio-demographic characteristics and the Buss-Perry Aggression Scale (BPAS). Data analysis was carried out in the computer environment using parametric and non-parametric tests. Among the students who had the mean age of 20.77±2.91, 71% were female, 35.3% were Anatolian high school graduate, 81.2% had middle income, 37.2% were grown up in a city and 70% had nuclear family. It was determined that the education levels of the students' mother (47.8%) and father (36.2%) were primary education and the majority of them did not smoke (70.5%) or alcohol (76.3%). The mean total BPAS score of the students was 72.78±1.72, while their sub dimension scores were 19.19±5.53 (physical aggression), 13.57±2.91 (verbal aggression), 18.01±5.91 (anger) and 21.99±5.99 (hostility), respectively. The variables on age, department, graduated high school, family structure, income status, place of childhood, alcohol use status and father's education levels did not affect the total and sub-dimension scores of BPAS (P > 0.05). It was determined that there was a significant difference between the "gender" variable and the BPAS physical aggression and hostility sub-dimension mean scores, and the physical aggression scores of men compared to women and the hostility sub-dimension scores of women were higher than men (P < 0.05). There was a statistically significant difference between the "smoking" variable and the BPAS physical aggression score averages, and the physical aggression scores of smokers were higher (P < 0.05). It was found that the physical aggression mean scores of the students whose mother's education was at the high school level were significantly higher (P < 0.05). In the study, it was found that the levels of aggression of healthcare vocational school students were moderate, gender, maternal education level and smoking status affected the aggression levels.

**Keywords:** Hostility, Anger, Student, Aggression

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## 1. Giriş

Saldırganlık; düşmanlık, öfke, antipati, korku veya engelleme gibi duygu ve durumlardan kaynaklanan, karşıdaki bireye düşmanca veya şiddet içeren davranışlarla zarar vermeyi, ona engel olmayı yada bireyin kendisini korumayı amaçlayan sözel, fiziksel veya sembolik her türlü davranış olarak tanımlanır. Saldırganlık başkalarını kırmayı, incitmeyi hedefleyen her türlü düşünce, davranış ya da eylemdir. Saldırganlık adölesan dönemde yaşanan en önemli problemlerden birisidir (Budak, 2005; Kızıldaş, 2017).

Saldırganlık, genetik, çevresel, yaşanmış veya yaşanan olumsuz psikolojik durum, iletişim problemleri, teknolojinin olumsuz etkisi veya sosyo-kültürel faktörlerden kaynaklanabilir. Saldırganlığın çeşitli psikolojik değişkenler ile arasındaki ilişkilerin incelendiği araştırmalara bakıldığında, saldırganlığın, sosyal ilişkilerde uyum, sosyal kaygı ve problem çözme ile ilişkili olduğu bulunmuştur. Ayrıca saldırganlığın, sigara, alkol ve madde kullanım bozukluğu, intihara meyilli olma ve asosyal kişilik bozukluğu ile arasında olumlu yönde ilişkilerin olduğu yapılan araştırmalarda bulunmuştur. Yapılan araştırmalar incelendiğinde saldırganlığın toplum tarafından olumsuz kabul edilen kişisel özellikler ile olumlu yönde, olumlu kabul edilen kişisel özellikler ile ise olumsuz yönde anlamlı bir ilişkisinin olduğu görülmektedir (Denson, 2007; Albayrak, 2008; Algül, 2009; Kurtyılmaz, 2011; Kaynak, 2013; Camadan, 2017).

Sağlık teknikerliği sağlık profesyonelleri arasında büyük bir grubu temsil etmekte, vereceği sağlık hizmetleri ve ulaşacağı toplum bakımından önemli bir yeri bulunmaktadır. Çalışmaya katılan geleceğin sağlık teknikerleri başta 112 acil sağlık hizmetleri, evde sağlık birimleri ve yoğun bakım servisleri olmak üzere çok çeşitli alanlarda görev alacaklardır. Hizmet sunacakları toplumun üyeleriyle bire bir iletişim halinde olmaları ve şiddet vakaları ile en fazla karşılaşan mesleği temsil edecekleri için, sağlık teknikerlerinin saldırganlık eğilimlerinin ve saldırganlığı etkileyen risk faktörlerinin tespit edilmesi önemli olarak görülmektedir (Gürkan, 2016; Camadan, 2017; Kızıldaş, 2017; Özpulat, 2017).

Literatür incelendiğinde, saldırganlık ile ilgili yapılan çalışmalarda sağlık alanında hizmet verecek, hasta ve yakınları ile doğrudan iletişime geçecek, geleceğin sağlık profesyonelleri olan sağlık teknikerleri ile ilgili çalışmalara rastlanmamıştır. Sağlığın geliştirilmesi, hizmetin sürdürülmesinde ayrıca şiddet ve saldırganlığın azaltılmasında çözümün önemli bir parçası olacak sağlık öğrencilerinin saldırganlık düzeylerinin ve risk faktörlerinin belirlenmesi önemlidir. Bu doğrultuda, sağlık alanında öğrenim gören üniversite öğrencilerinin saldırganlık düzeylerinin, yaş, cinsiyet, aile yapısı, anne baba eğitim düzeyi, sigara alkol kullanımı, ekonomik durum gibi sosyo-kültürel değişkenlerine göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık olup olmadığının araştırılması amaçlanmıştır.

## 2. Materyal ve Yöntem

Tanımlayıcı nitelikte olan çalışma Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam Üniversitesi Afşin Sağlık Yüksekokulu ve Bartın Üniversitesi Sağlık Hizmetleri Meslek Yüksekokulu kurumlarının izni alınarak Eylül-Ekim 2019 tarihleri arasında çalışmaya katılmayı kabul eden 207 sağlık hizmetleri meslek yüksekokulu öğrencisiyle tanımlayıcı ve kesitsel olarak yapıldı. Veriler sosyo-demografik özellikleri içeren soru formu ve Türkçe geçerliği ve güvenilirliği 2012 yılında Madran tarafından yapılan 29 madde ve 4 alt boyuttan oluşan Buss-Perry Saldırganlık Ölçeği (BPSÖ) kullanılarak toplandı. Ölçeğin Türkçe geçerlilik güvenilirlik çalışmasında Cronbach Alpha değeri ( $\alpha=0.85$ ) olarak bulunmuştur (Madran, 2012). Verilerin analizi bilgisayar ortamında SPSS (IBM SPSS Statistics 20) paket program kullanılarak yapıldı. Verilerin yorumlanmasında yüzdeler, ortalama, frekans tabloları ve tanımlayıcı istatistiklerden yararlanıldı. Normal dağılıma uymayan verilerin iki bağımsız grubun ölçüm değerlerinin karşılaştırılmasında Mann-Whitney U, bağımsız üç ve daha fazla grubun ölçüm değerlerinin karşılaştırılmasında ise Kruskal Wallis H testi kullanılmıştır (Onder, 2018).

## 3. Bulgular

Yaş ortalaması  $20,77 \pm 2,91$  olan öğrencilerin %71'i kadın, %35,3'ü Anadolu lisesi mezunu, %81,2'si orta gelirli, %37,2'si çocukluğunu il merkezinde geçirmiş ve %70'i çekirdek aile yapısına sahiptir. Öğrencilerin anne (%47,8) ve baba (%36,2) eğitim düzeylerinin ilköğretim olduğu, çoğunluğunun ise sigara (%70,5) ve alkol (%76,3) kullanmadığı tespit edildi (Tablo 1).

**Tablo 1.** Tanımlayıcı özelliklerin dağılımı

Özellikler	f	%
Cinsiyet		
Kadın	147	71,0
Erkek	60	29,0
Bölüm		
Evde Hasta Bakımı	94	45,4
İlk ve Acil Yardım	113	54,6
Mezun Olunan Lise		
Anadolu Lisesi	73	35,3
Sağlık Meslek Lisesi	79	38,2
Meslek /İmam Hatip Lisesi	55	26,5
Gelir Durumu		
Kötü	15	7,2
Orta	168	81,2
İyi	24	11,6
Çocukluğunu Geçirdiği Yer		
Köy	67	32,4
İlçe	63	30,4
İl	77	37,2

**Tablo 1.** Tanımlayıcı özelliklerin dağılımı (Devamı)

Özellikler	f	%
Aile Yapısı		
Çekirdek	145	70,0
Geniş	56	27,1
Parçalanmış	6	2,9
Anne Eğitim Durumu		
Okur-Yazar değil	17	8,2
Okur-Yazar	22	10,6
İlkokul	99	47,8
Ortaokul	37	17,9
Lise	28	13,5
Lisans ve Üzeri	4	1,9
Baba Eğitim Durumu		
Okur-Yazar değil	4	1,9
Okur-Yazar	13	6,3
İlkokul	75	36,2
Ortaokul	47	22,7
Lise	44	21,3
Lisans ve Üzeri	24	11,6
Sigara Kullanma		
Evet	61	75,6
Hayır	146	24,4
Alkol Kullanma		
Evet	9	4,3
Hayır	158	76,3
Bazen	40	19,4

Öğrencilerin BPSÖ toplam puan ortalaması 72,78±1,72 olup ölçek alt boyut puan ortalamaları sırasıyla 19,19±5,53 (fiziksel saldırganlık), 13,57±2,91 (sözel saldırganlık), 18,01±5,91 (öfke) ve 21,99±5,99 (düşmanlık) olduğu görüldü (Tablo 2).

Yaş, bölüm, mezun olunan lise, aile yapısı, gelir durumu, çocukluğunu geçirdiği yer, alkol kullanma durumu ve baba eğitim düzeylerinin BPSÖ toplam ve alt boyut ölçek puanlarını etkilemediği saptandı (P > 0,05). Çalışmada "cinsiyet" değişkeni ile BPSÖ fiziksel saldırganlık ve düşmanlık alt boyut puan ortalamaları arasında anlamlı fark olduğu, erkeklerin kadınlara göre fiziksel saldırganlık puanlarının ve kadınların ise erkeklere göre düşmanlık alt boyut puanlarının daha yüksek olduğu belirlendi (P < 0,05). "Sigara kullanma" değişkeni ile BPSÖ fiziksel saldırganlık puan ortalamaları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde fark olduğu, sigara kullananların fiziksel saldırganlık puanlarının daha yüksek olduğu görüldü (P < 0,05). Anne eğitimi lise düzeyinde olan öğrencilerin fiziksel saldırganlık puan ortalamalarının anlamlı olarak yüksek olduğu saptandı (P < 0,05) (Tablo 3).

**Tablo 2.** Öğrencilerin Buss-Perry Saldırganlık Ölçeği ve alt boyutları tanımlayıcı istatistikleri

Ölçek ve Alt Boyutları	Ort±SS	Medyan	Min-Max
Buss-Perry SÖT	72,78±1,72	72,00	37,00-128,00
Fiziksel Saldırganlık	19,19±5,53	19,00	9,00-39,00
Sözel Saldırganlık	13,57±2,91	14,00	5,00-24,00
Öfke	18,01±5,91	18,00	7,00-33,00
Düşmanlık	21,99±5,99	22,00	8,00-40,00

SÖT= saldırganlık ölçeği toplam, Ort= ortalama, SS= standart sapma, Min=- minimum, Max= maksimum.

#### 4. Tartışma

Çalışmanın temel amacı, sağlık hizmetleri meslek yüksekokulu öğrencilerinin saldırganlık düzeylerini ve çeşitli demografik özellikler açısından etkileyen faktörleri incelemektir. Çalışmada "cinsiyet" değişkeni ile Buss-Perry Saldırganlık Ölçeği toplam puanı arasında anlamlı fark olmamasına karşın, fiziksel saldırganlık ve düşmanlık alt boyut puan ortalamaları arasında anlamlı fark olduğu, erkeklerin kadınlara göre fiziksel saldırganlık puanlarının ve kadınların ise erkeklere göre düşmanlık alt boyut puanlarının daha yüksek olduğu belirlendi (P < 0,05). Yapılan araştırmaların büyük çoğunluğunda cinsiyet değişkeni ile saldırganlık düzeyleri arasında anlamlı ilişkilerin olduğu belirtilmektedir. Cinsiyet değişkeni bakımından yapılan karşılaştırmalarda, erkek katılımcıların saldırganlık düzeylerinin kadınlardan daha yüksek olduğunu bildiren araştırma sonuçlarına rastlanmaktadır (Borroni, 2014;

Bostancı, 2017; Camadan, 2017; Özyürek, 2019; Yörük, 2020). Yapılan bazı çalışmalarda ise saldırganlık düzeyleri bakımından cinsiyet değişkeninin farklılık göstermediği bildirilmiştir (Kurtyılmaz, 2010; Prather, 2012). Cinsiyete göre değişen, biyolojik ve hormonal durum, kültür, cinsiyet rolleri, toplumun ataerkil yapısı ve sosyal çevre saldırganlık düzeylerinin farklılık göstermesinde etkili olduğu söylenebilir. Araştırmalarda cinsiyet değişkenine göre, farklı saldırganlık düzeylerinin bulunması, çalışmanın yapıldığı kültürlerarası farklardan kaynaklandığını düşündürmektedir.

"Sigara kullanma" değişkeni ile BPSÖ fiziksel saldırganlık puan ortalamaları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde fark olduğu, sigara kullananların fiziksel saldırganlık puanlarının daha yüksek olduğu görüldü (P < 0,05). Çalışmamıza benzer şekilde sigara içenlerin saldırganlık ölçek puanlarının anlamlı olarak yüksek olduğunu belirten araştırmalar bulunmaktadır (Yörük, 2020).

**Tablo3.** Öğrencilerin sosyo demografik özelliklerinin Buss-Perry Saldırganlık Ölçeği ve alt boyutları ile karşılaştırılması

Özellikler	Buss-Perry SÖT	Fiziksel Saldırganlık	SÖ	Öfke	Düşmanlık
<b>Cinsiyet</b>					
Kadın	73,25±16,61	18,53±5,23	13,67±2,72	18,46±5,84	22,57±5,97
Erkek	71,63±18,68	20,81±5,95	13,33±3,34	16,93±6,00	20,55±5,82
	z=0,613 P= 0,241	z=-2,728 P= 0,007	z=0,761 P= 0,447	z=-1,694 P= 0,097	z=2,231 P= 0,027
<b>Sigara Kullanma</b>					
Evet	76,72±21,19	20,62±6,25	14,06±3,64	19,26±6,80	22,77±7,10
Hayır	71,13±15,02	18,60± 5,13	13,36± 2,53	17,50±5,45	21,66±5,45
	z=2,146 P= 0,033	z=2,421 P= 0,016	z=1,572 P= 0,118	z=1,966 P= 0,076	z=1,212 P= 0,227
<b>Mezun Olunan Lise</b>					
Anadolu Lisesi	71,21±2,80	18,23±0,89	13,20±0,47	17,47±0,95	21,65±2,80
Sağlık Meslek Lisesi	72,48±3,08	19,51±0,97	13,69±0,52	17,58±1,03	22,10±3,08
Meslek /İmam Hatip Lisesi	74,28±3,03	19,57±0,98	13,72±0,51	18,90±1,05	22,30±3,03
	x <sup>2</sup> =0,516 P= 0,598	x <sup>2</sup> =1,133 P= 0,324	x <sup>2</sup> =0,619 P= 0,540	x <sup>2</sup> =1,269 P= 0,283	x <sup>2</sup> =0,212 P= 0,829
<b>Gelir Durumu</b>					
Kötü	69,58±4,64	18,33±1,49	13,54±0,78	17,33±1,60	20,37±1,61
Orta	73,04±5,67	19,27±1,82	13,54±0,63	18,03±1,29	22,15±1,80
İyi	74,93±3,76	19,73±1,21	14,00±0,96	18,46±1,95	22,73±1,97
	x <sup>2</sup> =0,549 P= 0,578	x <sup>2</sup> =0,376 P= 0,687	x <sup>2</sup> =0,171 P= 0,843	x <sup>2</sup> =0,210 P= 0,810	x <sup>2</sup> =1,051 P= 0,351
<b>Büyüdüğü Yer</b>					
Köy	71,85±3,02	18,68±0,97	13,25±0,50	17,70±1,04	21,36±1,05
İlçe	72,10±2,88	19,32±0,92	13,43±0,48	17,90±0,99	22,28±1,00
İl	74,63±2,93	19,58±1,21	14,11±0,49	18,49±1,00	22,44±1,01
	x <sup>2</sup> =0,526 P= 0,592	x <sup>2</sup> =0,459 P= 0,633	x <sup>2</sup> =1,607 P= 0,203	x <sup>2</sup> =0,309 P= 0,735	x <sup>2</sup> =0,680 P= 0,598
<b>Aile Yapısı</b>					
Çekirdek	71,35±2,71	19,14±0,87	13,48±0,45	17,85±0,93	21,85±0,94
Geniş	73,39±7,19	19,16±2,31	13,66±1,21	18,00±2,47	22,14±2,50
Parçalanmış	77,33±7,42	20,50±2,38	15,00±1,25	18,44±2,55	23,83±2,58
	x <sup>2</sup> =0,287 P= 0,751	x <sup>2</sup> =0,170 P= 0,844	x <sup>2</sup> =0,813 P= 0,445	x <sup>2</sup> =0,200 P= 0,819	x <sup>2</sup> =0,337 P= 0,715
<b>Alkol Kullanma</b>					
Evet	72,20±5,89	18,85±1,88	13,37±0,99	17,84±2,03	21,75±2,06
Hayır	73,17±6,34	19,82±2,03	13,53±1,07	18,22±2,18	21,96±2,21
Bazen	81,22±3,04	22,44±0,97	15,11±0,51	20,22±1,04	23,44±1,06
	x <sup>2</sup> =0,118 P= 0,308	x <sup>2</sup> =0,213 P= 0,122	x <sup>2</sup> =0,136 P= 0,258	x <sup>2</sup> =0,718 P= 0,490	x <sup>2</sup> =0,296 P= 0,744
<b>Bölüm</b>					
Evde Hasta Bakımı	71,80±3,31	18,60±0,98	13,61±0,51	17,58±1,05	21,88±1,15
İlk ve Acil Yardım	73,43±4,04	19,45±1,23	13,63±0,68	18,26±1,31	22,43±1,40
	x <sup>2</sup> =0,496 P= 0,686	x <sup>2</sup> =0,688 P= 0,561	x <sup>2</sup> =0,137 P= 0,938	x <sup>2</sup> =0,342 P= 0,795	x <sup>2</sup> =1,049 P= 0,372
<b>Anne Eğitimi</b>					
Okur-yazar değil	63,25±5,48	16,50±1,74	13,00±0,93	16,50±1,90	17,25±1,92
Okur-Yazar	69,79±4,45	18,18±1,27	13,14±0,68	17,28±1,55	21,19±1,40
İlkokul	73,78±4,97	18,78±1,45	13,45±0,78	17,86±1,73	21,82±1,60
Ortaokul	73,82±5,22	19,88±1,54	14,11±0,82	18,00±1,81	22,78±1,69
Lise	80,10±9,43	22,03±2,94	14,53±1,57	20,00±3,28	23,53±3,23
Lisans Ve Üzeri	76,13±4,57	20,81±1,42	14,18±0,55	18,75±1,39	23,27±1,56
	x <sup>2</sup> =0,211 P= 0,065	x <sup>2</sup> =0,292 P= 0,014	x <sup>2</sup> =1,413 P= 0,221	x <sup>2</sup> =1,107 P= 0,358	x <sup>2</sup> =1,581 P= 0,167
<b>Baba Eğitimi Okur-</b>					
<b>yazar değil</b>	62,75±9,82	13,50±3,15	12,25±1,67	15,00±3,36	20,95±3,40
Okur-Yazar	70,80±8,81	18,70±2,82	13,24±1,50	16,79±3,01	21,00±3,05
İlkokul	71,15±8,94	18,97±2,87	13,61±1,52	17,07±3,06	21,08±3,09
Ortaokul	72,08±8,97	19,46±2,97	13,74±1,57	17,40±3,07	21,86±3,10
Lise	72,45±9,27	19,70±3,15	13,83±0,88	18,00±3,17	22,00±3,21
Lisans ve Üzeri	77,65±5,16	20,75±1,65	13,93±0,68	19,93±2,02	24,09±2,04
	x <sup>2</sup> =1,156 P= 0,332	x <sup>2</sup> =1,417 P= 0,219	x <sup>2</sup> =0,560 P= 0,731	x <sup>2</sup> =1,520 P= 0,175	x <sup>2</sup> =1,570 P= 0,170

SÖT= saldırganlık ölçeği toplam, SÖ= özel saldırganlık

Toplumda sigara, öfke ve saldırganlığı kontrol etmek için kullanılabilir. Aynı zamanda sürekli öfke ve saldırganlık yaşayan bireylerin sigara içme alışkanlıklarının daha yüksek olduğu belirtilmektedir (Al'Absi, 2007). Ayrıca yapılan çalışmamızda, yaş, bölüm, mezun olunan lise, aile yapısı, gelir durumu, çocukluğunu

geçirdiği yer, alkol kullanma durumu ve baba eğitim düzeylerinin BPSÖ toplam ve alt boyut ölçek puanlarını etkilemediği saptandı (P > 0,05). Bu konuda yapılan araştırmalarda da farklı bulgular ortaya çıkmıştır. Özyürek (2019) tarafından yapılan bir araştırmada yaş değişkeni açısından saldırganlık düzeyi arasında anlamlı

farklılık bulunmuştur. Yakut (2012) tarafından yapılan bir araştırmada ise yaş ile saldırganlık düzeyleri arasında anlamlı bir farklılık bulunurken, benzer şekilde ekonomik durum ve baba eğitim düzeyi açısından anlamlı bir farklılık bulunmamıştır. Yurttaş (2016) tarafından gerçekleştirilen çalışmada ise katılımcıların öğrenim gördükleri bölüm, aile yapısı, gelir durumu ve alkol kullanımı değişkenleri ile saldırganlık düzeyleri arasında anlamlı farklılık olduğunu göstermiştir. Cengiz (2010) tarafından yapılan çalışmaya göre de gelir durumu açısından saldırganlık düzeyi arasında anlamlı bir farklılık tespit edilirken, anne ve baba eğitimi düzeyleri açısından anlamlı bir farklılık bulunmamıştır.

## 5. Sonuç ve Öneriler

Çalışmada sağlık hizmetleri meslek yüksekokulu öğrencilerinin saldırganlık durumlarının orta düzeyde olduğu; cinsiyet, anne eğitim düzeyi ve sigara kullanma durumlarının saldırganlık düzeylerini etkilediği görüldü. Sağlık alanında öğrenim gören öğrenciler, geleceğin yetişkin bireyleri olmaları ve profesyonel sağlık hizmetlerini dezavantajlı birçok gruba sunacakları için ayrı bir öneme sahiptirler. Sağlık alanında her geçen gün daha fazla görülmeye başlayan şiddet ve saldırganlık olaylarında saldırganlığın tanılanmasında ve mücadelesinde sağlık teknikerlerinin etkin rol alabilmeleri için kendi saldırganlık eğilimlerinin farkında olmaları ve bununla başa çıkabilmeleri önemlidir. Dolayısı ile öğrencilerin saldırganlık konusunda önce kendileri, sonra sağlık hizmeti vereceği toplum için neler yapabileceklerini öğrenmeleri gerektiği için iletişim, öfke kontrol, kriz yönetimi ve saldırganlık ile ilgili derslerin, seminerlerin eğitim döneminde daha çok yer alması önerilmektedir.

Bu araştırmanın örneklemini, Bartın Üniversitesinin Sağlık Hizmetleri Meslek Yüksekokulu İlk ve Acil Yardım Programı ve Evde Hasta Bakımı Programında okuyan öğrencilerle sınırlıdır. Araştırmanın sonuçları değerlendirilirken bu sınırlılık göz önünde bulundurulmalıdır. Sağlık hizmetleri meslek yüksekokulu öğrencilerinin saldırganlık düzeylerinin ve etkili faktörlerin belirlenmesine yönelik daha geniş kapsamlı kültürlerarası, nicel ve nitel araştırmalarla desteklenmesi önerilmektedir.

## Katkı Oranı Beyanı

Tüm yazarlar eşit oranda katkıya sahiptir. Tüm yazarlar makaleyi inceledi ve onayladı.

## Çatışma Beyanı

Yazarlar bu çalışmada hiçbir çıkar ilişkisi olmadığını beyan etmektedirler.

## Etik Onay/Hasta Onamı

Mevcut çalışma Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam Üniversitesi Afşin Sağlık Yüksekokulu ve Bartın Üniversitesi Sağlık Hizmetleri Meslek Yüksekokulu kurumlarının izni alınarak Eylül-Ekim 2019 tarihlerinden

gerçekleştirilmiştir. Makale verileri 2020 yılından önce toplandığı için geriye dönük etik kurul izni alınamayacağından etik kurul onayı bulunmamaktadır.

## Destek ve Teşekkür Beyanı

Bu çalışma 1. Uluslararası Malatya Uygulamalı Bilimler Kongresinde özet bildiri olarak sunulmuştur.

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## THE CORRELATIONS BETWEEN SERVANT LEADERSHIP PERCEPTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL CYNICISM AND BURNOUT LEVELS OF ANKARA DIRECTORATE OF PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EMPLOYEES

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### Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to determine the correlations between servant leadership perceptions and organizational cynicism and burnout levels of the personnel of Ankara Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry. In March 2019, 300 employees had taken a survey within this context. The data from the research had been analyzed via SPSS program. In this study, t-test analysis was used to examine servant leadership, burnout and cynicism levels according to the sex, marital status, age, income levels, and position levels of the employees. Analysis of variance was used to examine employees by their profession. Sidak dual comparison test was used to determine the groups which were different. Correlation analysis was used to determine the relations between servant leadership, burnout and cynicism levels. It was determined that servant leadership levels did not change by the sex or marital status of the participants. According to the marital status of the participants, burnout changed to a level of desensitization, a sub - dimension of burnout. In the study, it was seen that participants' servant leadership perception levels and cognitive, affective and behavioral cynicism levels had a negative, significant correlation. Furthermore, it was observed in the study that the participants' servant leadership perception levels and affective burnout and desensitization; the sub dimensions of burnout, had a negative, significant correlation. However, between servant leadership perception levels and individual achievement, a very low, positive significant correlation was seen.

**Keywords:** Servant leadership, Organizational cynicism, Burnout

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### 1. Introduction

Burnout is a long-term reaction to chronic affective and interpersonal stressors at work and burnout is defined by three dimensions of cynicism and inefficiency (Maslach et al., 2001). The term servant leadership was created by Greenleaf (1977) stated in his essay that every leader is a servant. To Greenleaf (1977), a servant leader is emphatical with people and listens to people. He/she understands them and supports them emotionally and has unusual power. In Bedeian (2007), defines organizational cynicism as a negative attitude towards the organization the individual works for. Even though organizational behavior studies are known to be important, the fewness of its research in agricultural enterprises draws attention. There are studies about servant leadership and burnout by; Jerry and Grace (2013), Kaya et al. (2016) and Divya and Suganthi (2018). Similarly, there are studies about servant leadership and organizational cynicism by; Ye and Min (2014) and Aziz et al. (2017). Lastly, Simha et al. (2014) and Özler and Atalay (2011) have studied about burnout

and organizational cynicism. As a result of the research they did on healthcare personnel, Chi and Chi (2013) have found out that managers with servant spirits reduced the physical and mental sufferings, in other words, the burnouts of all hospital employees. With the studies they did, Kaya et al. (2016) looked at servant leadership's effects on burnout from organizational politics. They surveyed 401 employees from 49 different institutions. The results showed that burnout was not caused by servant leadership through organizational politics. Divya and Suganthi (2018) showed the indirect effect of servant leadership on employee burnout. With the studies they did on teachers in kindergarten and daycare centers, Ye and Min (2014) found out that servant leadership abilities of managers determine teachers' organizational cynicism levels directly. Aziz et al. (2017) showed the importance of organizational cynicism as a mediator for servant leadership and organizational individual behavior. Simha et al. (2014) stated that the relation between burnout and organizational cynicism exists and trusting a coworker,



perceived justice and role conflict affect that relation negatively.

With this study, the correlations between servant leadership perceptions and organizational cynicism and burnout levels of the personnel of Ankara Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry were examined. For this purpose, answers to the following research questions were sought.

H1a: According to the sexes of the employees, do the servant leadership perception levels differ?

H1b: According to the sexes of the employees, do the organizational cynicism levels differ?

H1c: According to the sexes of the employees, do the burnout levels differ?

H2a: According to the marital status of the employees, do the servant leadership perception levels differ?

H2b: According to the marital status of the employees, do the organizational cynicism levels differ?

H2c: According to the marital status of the employees, do the burnout levels differ?

H3a: According to the ages of the employees, do the servant leadership perception levels differ?

H3b: According to the ages of the employees, do the organizational cynicism levels differ?

H3c: According to the ages of the employees, do the burnout levels differ?

H4a: According to the positions of the employees, do the servant leadership perception levels differ?

H4b: According to the positions of the employees, do the organizational cynicism levels differ?

H4c: According to the positions of the employees, do the burnout levels differ?

H5a: According to the professions of the employees, do the servant leadership perception levels differ?

H5b: According to the professions of the employees, do the organizational cynicism levels differ?

H5c: According to the professions of the employees, do the burnout levels differ?

H6a: According to the income levels of the employees, do the servant leadership perception levels differ?

H6b: According to the income levels of the employees, do the organizational cynicism levels differ?

H6c: According to the income levels of the employees, do the burnout levels differ?

H7: Is there a statistically significant difference between the employees' servant leadership perceptions and organizational cynicism levels?

H8: Is there a statistically significant difference between the employees' servant leadership perceptions and burnout levels?

H9: Is there a statistically significant difference between the employees' organizational cynicism levels and burnout levels?

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1. Research Model

Regarding the analysis of the data; definitive statistics are presented with frequency, percentage, average and

standard deviation. Exploratory factor analysis was used to determine the factor structure of the question groups. Cronbach Alpha Reliability Analysis was used to test the internal consistency of the dimensions. In this study, t test analysis was used to examine servant leadership, burnout and cynicism levels according to the sex, marital status, age, income levels, and positions of the employees. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to examine employees by their profession. Sidak dual comparison test was used to determine the groups which were different. Correlation analysis was used to determine the relations between servant leadership, burnout and cynicism levels. In this study, p values smaller than 0.05 were considered statistically significant. The analysis was made with SPSS 22.0 package program.

### 2.2. Population and Sample

This research was applied to the employees with different titles, working in Ankara Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry in March 2019. In the scope of this research, every person working in the organization were tried to be worked with. From the volunteer-based surveys, 305 returned. Since there were deficient data from 5 of these, those were eliminated and this study was done with the data of 300 surveys. The complete count method was used in this study.

### 2.3. Data Collecting Tools

In the scope of this research, servant leadership, organizational cynicism and burnout scales were used. The short form of the scale consisting of 7 items and 1 dimension, which was renewed by Liden et al. (2013), was used to measure servant leadership. The organizational cynicism scale, which was developed by Brandes et al. (1999), was used to measure employees' levels of cynicism. The scale has 3 dimensions and 13 items. The validity and reliability analysis of this scale has been done by Karacaoğlu and İnce (2012). The burnout syndrome scale consisting of 3 dimensions and 22 items was developed by Maslach and Jackson in 1981 and it was translated to Turkish by Ergin (1992).

### 2.4. The Evaluation of the Burnout Scale

Correlation analysis was used to determine the reliability levels. As a result of the analysis, the Cronbach alpha coefficient was determined to be 0.92. The coefficient shows that the scale is highly reliable. Consequently, it is seen that there is not a need to eliminate any questions. After the reliability analysis, the scale with 22 items was analyzed to test the construct validity (Table 1).

As a result of this factor analysis, 3 sub-dimensions were determined. These are emotional burnout, desensitization and individual achievement sub dimensions. With this factor analysis, the calculated Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) sample sufficiency coefficient was 0.88. This coefficient is an indication that these 300 surveys are sufficient to determine the factor structure. Furthermore, because of Barlet's test, which tests significance ( $P = 0.01$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ), the obtained dimensions are structurally significant. The emotional burnout sub-dimension was calculated to have 0.84 internal

consistencies and had 22% announced variance. Desensitization sub-dimension was calculated to have 0.81 internal consistencies and 21% announced variance. Individual achievement sub-dimension was calculated to

have 0.78 internal consistencies and 18% announced variance. The total rate of announced variance was determined to be 59%.

**Table 1.** Burnout scale

Dimensions	Announced Variance	Internal Consistency	Reliability	KMO
Emotional Burnout	22%	0.84		
Desensitization	21%	0.81	0.92	0.88
Individual Achievement	18%	0.78		

**2.5. The Evaluation of the Servant Leadership Scale**

Correlation analysis was used to determine the reliability levels of the Servant Leadership scale. As a result of the analysis, the alpha coefficient was determined to be 0.88. The coefficient shows that the scale is highly reliable.

Consequently, it is seen that there is not a need to eliminate any questions. After the reliability analysis, the servant leadership scale with 7 items was factor analyzed to test the construct validity (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Servant leadership scale

Dimensions	Announced Variance	Reliability	KMO
Servant Leadership Scale	46%	0.88	0.85

In this study, the scale related to Servant Leadership was seen to have 1 dimension, with an announced variance rate of 46%. The obtained dimension was named Servant Leadership. With this factor analysis, the calculated KMO sample sufficiency coefficient was 0.85. This coefficient shows that these 300 surveys are sufficient to determine the factor structure. Furthermore, as a result of Barlet's test which tests significance ( $P = 0.01$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ), the obtained dimensions are structurally significant.

**2.6. The Evaluation of the Organizational Cynicism Scale**

Correlation analysis was used to determine the reliability levels of Organizational Cynicism. As a result of the analysis the alpha coefficient was determined to be 0.95. The coefficient shows that the scale is highly reliable. Consequently, it is seen that there is not a need to eliminate any questions. After the reliability analysis, to test the construct validity the Organizational Cynicism was factor analyzed (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Organizational cynicism scale

Dimensions	Announced Variance	Internal Consistency	Reliability	KMO
Affective	24%	0.86		
Cognitive	22%	0.84	0.95	0.93
Behavior	20%	0.82		

As a result of the Organizational Cynicism scale factor analysis, 3 sub-dimensions were determined. These are effective, cognitive and behavior sub-dimensions. With this factor analysis, the calculated KMO sample sufficiency coefficient was 0.93. This coefficient shows that these 300 surveys are sufficient to determine the factor structure. Furthermore, as a result of Barlet's test which tests significance ( $P = 0.01$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ), the obtained dimensions are structurally significant.

Effective sub-dimension was calculated to have 0.86 internal consistencies and had 24% announced variance. Cognitive sub dimension was calculated to have 0.84 internal consistencies and 22% announced variance. Behavior sub dimension was calculated to have 0.82 internal consistencies and 20% announced variance. The total rate of announced variance was determined to be 68%.

**3. Results and Discussion**

**3.1. Demographic Attributes of the Participants**

Demographic attributes of the participants are present Table 4. It was determined that 55% of the participants were male and 45% of the participants were female. It was determined that 38% of the participants were married and 72% of the participants were unmarried. It was seen that 12% of the participants were workers, 16% were government officials, 42% were engineers, 14% were technicians and 16% were veterinarian surgeons. It was observed that 5% of the participants had primary, 9% had secondary, 13% had upper secondary, 52% had bachelor's and 21% had master's level of education. It was determined that 40% of the participants were under 40 years old and 55% were 41 years old and older. It was determined that 21% of the participants' monthly income was 5000 Turkish liras and lower, 79% was 5001 Turkish liras and higher.

**Table 4.** Demographic attributes of the participants

Attributes of the Participants		n	%
Sex	Male	166	55.3
	Female	134	44.7
Marital Status	Married	235	78.3
	Unmarried	65	21.7
Profession	Worker	35	11.7
	Government Official	49	16.3
	Engineer	125	41.7
	Technician	43	14.3
	Veterinarian Surgeon	48	16.0
Level of Education	Primary	16	5.3
	Secondary	26	8.7
	Upper Secondary	38	12.7
Age Group	Bachelor's	156	52.0
	Master's	64	21.3
	40 years old and younger	134	44.7
Year of Seniority	41 years old and older	166	55.3
	10 years and less	135	45.0
Level of Income	11 years and more	165	55.0
	Below 5000 Turkish liras	64	21.3
	5001 Turkish liras and above	236	78.7

**3.2. The Examination of the Scale Dimensions According to the Participants Attributes**

In this study, the examination results of whether the

participants' servant leadership, organizational cynicism and emotional burnout levels are affected by their demographic attributes will be given (Table 5).

**Table 5.** Gender and dimensions

Dimensions	Sex	n	X	ds	t	P
Servant Leadership	Male	166	3.80	0.81	0.58	0.56
	Female	134	3.75	0.86		
Cognitive	Male	166	2.52	0.83	0.07	0.94
	Female	134	2.51	0.86		
Affective	Male	166	2.02	0.89	0.65	0.51
	Female	134	1.95	0.92		
Behavioral	Male	166	2.38	0.89	0.36	0.72
	Female	134	2.35	0.84		
Emotional Burnout	Male	166	2.42	0.69	-0.06	0.95
	Female	134	2.43	0.66		
Desensitization	Male	166	2.29	0.80	1.36	0.17
	Female	134	2.17	0.71		
Individual Achievement	Male	166	3.60	0.67	0.89	0.37
	Female	134	3.54	0.58		

It was determined that the servant leadership levels of the personnel who constituted the study were not different according to their gender. It can be said that the servant leadership levels of male and female personnel are similar ( $t = 0.58$ ,  $P = 0.56$ ). It was determined that cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel were not different according to their gender. It can be said that the

cognitive cynicism levels of male and female personnel are similar ( $t = 0.07$ ,  $P = 0.94$ ). It was determined that effective cynicism levels of the participants were not different according to their gender. It can be said that the effective cynicism levels of male and female participants are similar ( $t = 0.65$ ,  $P = 0.51$ ). It was determined that behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel who

participated in the survey were not different according to their gender. It can be said that the behavioral cynicism levels of male and female personnel are similar ( $t = 0.36$ ,  $P = 0.72$ ). It was determined that emotional burnout levels of the personnel were not different according to their gender. It can be said that the emotional burnout levels of male and female personnel are similar ( $t = -0.06$ ,  $P = 0.95$ ). It was determined that desensitization levels

were not different according to gender. It can be said that the desensitization levels of male and female personnel are similar ( $t = 1.36$ ,  $P = 0.17$ ). It was determined that personal success levels of the personnel were not different according to their gender. It can be said that the personal success levels of male and female personnel are similar ( $t = 0.89$ ,  $P = 0.37$ ) (Table 6).

**Table 6.** Marital status and dimensions (n=300)

Dimensions	Marital Status	n	X	ds	t	P
Servant Leadership	Married	235	3.79	0.83	0.54	0.59
	Unmarried	65	3.73	0.85		
Cognitive	Married	235	2.54	0.84	0.99	0.32
	Unmarried	65	2.43	0.85		
Affective	Married	235	1.99	0.93	0.03	0.98
	Unmarried	65	1.98	0.82		
Behavioral	Married	235	2.40	0.87	1.20	0.23
	Unmarried	65	2.25	0.86		
Emotional Burnout	Married	235	2.39	0.65	-1.67	0.10
	Unmarried	65	2.55	0.76		
Desensitization	Married	235	2.18	0.76	-2.48	0.01*
	Unmarried	65	2.44	0.76		
Individual Achievement	Married	235	3.54	0.64	-1.53	0.13
	Unmarried	65	3.68	0.60		

\* $P < 0,05$

It was determined that the servant leadership levels of the participants were not different according to their marital status. It can be said that the servant leadership levels of married and unmarried personnel are similar ( $t = 0.54$ ,  $P = 0.59$ ). It was determined that cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel who constituted the study were not different according to their marital status. It can be said that the cognitive cynicism levels of married and unmarried personnel are similar ( $t = 0.99$ ,  $P = 0.32$ ). It was determined that effective cynicism levels of the personnel were not different according to their marital status. It can be said that the effective cynicism levels of married and unmarried personnel are similar ( $t = 0.03$ ,  $P = 0.98$ ). It was determined that behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel who participated in the survey were not different according to their marital status. It can be said that the behavioral cynicism levels of married and unmarried personnel are similar ( $t = 1.20$ ,  $P = 0.23$ ).

It was determined that emotional burnout levels of the personnel were not different according to their marital status. It can be said that the emotional burnout levels of married and unmarried personnel are similar ( $t = 1.67$ ,  $P = 0.10$ ). It was determined that desensitization levels of the personnel were different according to their marital status. It can be said that the desensitization levels of unmarried personnel are higher than personnel ( $t = -2.48$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was determined that personal success levels of the personnel were not different according to their marital status. It can be said that the personal success levels of married and unmarried personnel are

similar ( $t = -1.53$ ,  $P = 0.13$ ) (Table 7).

It was determined that the servant leadership levels of the personnel who constituted the study were not different according to their ages. It can be said that the servant leadership levels of the personnel who are under 40 and over 41 years old are similar ( $t = 1.80$ ,  $P = 0.07$ ). It was determined that cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel were not different according to their ages. It can be said that the cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel who are under 40 and over 41 years old are similar ( $t = -0.23$ ,  $P = 0.81$ ).

It was determined that effective cynicism levels of the personnel were not different according to their ages. It can be said that the effective cynicism levels of the personnel who are under 40 and over 41 years old are similar ( $t = -1.14$ ,  $P = 0.51$ ). It was determined that behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel were not different according to their ages. It can be said that the behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel who are under 40 and over 41 years old are similar ( $t = 1.34$ ,  $P = 0.18$ ). It was determined that emotional burnout levels of the personnel were not different according to their ages. It can be said that the emotional burnout levels of the personnel who are under 40 and over 41 years old are similar ( $t = 0.57$ ,  $P = 0.57$ ).

It was determined that desensitization levels of the personnel who participated in the survey were not different according to their ages. It can be said that the desensitization levels of the personnel who are under 40 and over 41 years old are similar ( $t = -0.78$ ,  $P = 0.43$ ). It was determined that personal success levels of the

personnel were not different according to their ages. It can be said that the personal success levels of the

personnel who are under 40 and over 41 years old are similar ( $t = -0.48, P = 0.63$ ) (Table 8).

**Table 7.** Age and dimensions (n=300)

Dimensions	Age Group	n	X	ds	t	P
Servant Leadership	40 years old and younger	134	3.87	0.88	1.80	0.07
	41 years old and older	166	3.70	0.79		
Cognitive	40 years old and younger	134	2.51	0.88	-0.23	0.81
	41 years old and older	166	2.53	0.81		
Affective	40 years old and younger	134	1.92	0.99	-1.14	0.26
	41 years old and older	166	2.04	0.83		
Behavioral	40 years old and younger	134	2.44	0.91	1.34	0.18
	41 years old and older	166	2.31	0.83		
Emotional Burnout	40 years old and younger	134	2.45	0.72	0.57	0.57
	41 years old and older	166	2.40	0.64		
Desensitization	40 years old and younger	134	2.20	0.76	-0.78	0.43
	41 years old and older	166	2.27	0.77		
Individual Achievement	40 years old and younger	134	3.55	0.65	-0.48	0.63
	41 years old and older	166	3.59	0.62		

**Table 8.** Seniority and dimensions (n=300)

Dimensions	Year of Seniority	n	X	ds	t	P
Servant Leadership	10 years and less	135	3.84	0.78	1.20	0.23
	11 years and more	165	3.72	0.87		
Cognitive	10 years and less	135	2.52	0.85	-0.06	0.95
	11 years and more	165	2.52	0.83		
Affective	10 years and less	135	1.94	0.88	-0.84	0.40
	11 years and more	165	2.03	0.92		
Behavioral	10 years and less	135	2.43	0.90	1.16	0.25
	11 years and more	165	2.31	0.84		
Emotional Burnout	10 years and less	135	2.45	0.70	0.52	0.61
	11 years and more	165	2.41	0.66		
Desensitization	10 years and less	135	2.27	0.81	0.82	0.41
	11 years and more	165	2.20	0.73		
Individual Achievement	10 years and less	135	3.59	0.58	0.36	0.72
	11 years and more	165	3.56	0.67		

It was determined that the servant leadership levels of the personnel who constituted the study were not different according to their seniority. It can be said that the servant leadership levels of the personnel with a working time less than 10 years and those with more than 11 years are similar. ( $t = 1.20, P = 0.23$ ). It was

determined that the cognitive cynicism levels of the participants were not different according to their seniority. It can be said that the cognitive cynicism levels of the participants with a working time less than 10 years and those with more than 11 years are similar ( $t = -0.06, P = 0.95$ ). It was determined that effective cynicism levels

of the participants were not different according to their seniority. It can be said that the effective cynicism levels of the personnel with a working time less than 10 years and those with more than 11 years are similar ( $t = -0.84$ ,  $P = 0.40$ ). It was determined that behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel who participated in the survey were not different according to their seniority. It can be said that the behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel with a working time less than 10 years and those with more than 11 years are similar ( $t = 1.16$ ,  $P = 0.25$ ). It was determined that emotional burnout levels of the personnel were not different according to their seniority. It can be said that the emotional burnout levels of the

personnel with a working time less than 10 years and those with more than 11 years are similar ( $t = 0.52$ ,  $P = 0.61$ ). It was determined that desensitization levels of the participants were not different according to seniority. It can be said that the desensitization levels of the personnel with a working time less than 10 years and those with more than 11 years are similar ( $t = 0.82$ ,  $P = 0.41$ ). It was determined that personal success levels of the personnel were not different according to their seniority. It can be said that the personal success levels of the personnel with a working time less than 10 years and those with more than 11 years are similar ( $t = 0.36$ ,  $P = 0.72$ ) (Table 9).

**Table 9.** Profession and dimensions

Dimensions	Position	n	X	ds	F	P	Gap
Servant Leadership	Worker (1)	35	3.66	0.96	2.34	0.06	-
	Government Official (2)	49	3.89	0.67			
	Engineer (3)	125	3.90	0.79			
	Technician (4)	43	3.62	0.91			
	Veterinary Surgeon (5)	48	3.56	0.87			
Cognitive	Worker (1)	35	2.41	0.87	0.71	0.58	-
	Government Official (2)	49	2.55	0.79			
	Engineer (3)	125	2.50	0.86			
	Technician (4)	43	2.45	0.75			
	Veterinary Surgeon (5)	48	2.68	0.91			
Affective	Worker (1)	35	1.80	0.76	3.13	0.02*	5.2>1,3,4
	Government Official (2)	49	2.14	0.98			
	Engineer (3)	125	1.86	0.78			
	Technician (4)	43	1.95	0.98			
	Veterinary Surgeon (5)	48	2.33	1.07			
Behavioral	Worker (1)	35	2.14	0.83	2.39	0.05	-
	Government Official (2)	49	2.54	0.90			
	Engineer (3)	125	2.25	0.82			
	Technician (4)	43	2.47	0.93			
	Veterinary Surgeon (5)	48	2.56	0.88			
Emotional Burnout	Worker (1)	35	2.41	0.74	3.54	0.01*	5.2>1,3,4
	Government Official (2)	49	2.54	0.71			
	Engineer (3)	125	2.32	0.59			
	Technician (4)	43	2.29	0.70			
	Veterinary Surgeon (5)	48	2.70	0.74			
Desensitization	Worker (1)	35	2.49	1.09	4.72	0.01*	1.5>3.4
	Government Official (2)	49	2.28	0.76			
	Engineer (3)	125	2.07	0.62			
	Technician (4)	43	2.12	0.70			
	Veterinary Surgeon (5)	48	2.53	0.76			
Individual Achievement	Worker (1)	35	3.35	0.59	1.72	0.21	
	Government Official (2)	49	3.54	0.66			
	Engineer (3)	125	3.62	0.60			
	Technician (4)	43	3.64	0.72			
	Veterinary Surgeon (5)	48	3.59	0.60			

It was determined that the servant leadership levels of the personnel who constituted the study were not different according to their titles. It can be said that the servant leadership levels of the personnel with different titles are similar ( $F=2.34$ ,  $P = 0.06$ ). It was determined that cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel were not

different according to their titles. It can be said that the cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel with different titles are similar ( $F=0.71$ ,  $P = 0.58$ ). It was determined that effective cynicism levels of the personnel were different according to their titles. It can be said that the effective cynicism levels of Veterinary Surgeons and

government officials are higher than others ( $F=3.13$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was determined that behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel who participated in the survey were not different according to their titles. It can be said that the behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel with different titles are similar ( $F=2.39$ ,  $P = 0.05$ ). It was determined that the emotional burnout levels of the participants were different according to their titles. It can be said that the emotional burnout levels of Veterinary Surgeons and government officials are higher than others ( $F=3.54$ ,  $P =$

$0.01$ ). It was determined that desensitization levels of the personnel who participated in the surveys were different according to titles. It can be said that the desensitization levels of Veterinary Surgeons and government officials are higher than others ( $F=4.42$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was determined that personal success levels of the personnel were not different according to their titles. It can be said that the personal success levels of the personnel with different titles are similar ( $F=1.72$ ,  $P = 0.21$ ) (Table 10).

**Table 10.** Level of income and dimensions

Dimensions	Income Level	n	X	ds	t	P
Servant Leadership	Below 5000 Turkish liras	64	3.81	0.83	0.39	0.69
	5001 Turkish liras and above	236	3.77	0.83		
Cognitive	Below 5000 Turkish liras	64	2.46	0.82	-0.67	0.50
	5001 Turkish liras and above	236	2.54	0.85		
Affective	Below 5000 Turkish liras	64	2.02	0.94	0.28	0.78
	5001 Turkish liras and above	236	1.98	0.89		
Behavioral	Below 5000 Turkish liras	64	2.38	0.90	0.10	0.92
	5001 Turkish liras and above	236	2.36	0.86		
Emotional Burnout	Below 5000 Turkish liras	64	2.51	0.75	1.10	0.27
	5001 Turkish liras and above	236	2.40	0.66		
Desensitization	Below 5000 Turkish liras	64	2.47	0.97	2.80	0.01*
	5001 Turkish liras and above	236	2.17	0.69		
Individual Achievement	Below 5000 Turkish liras	64	3.51	0.65	-0.90	0.37
	5001 Turkish liras and above	236	3.59	0.63		

$P < 0,05^*$

It was determined that the servant leadership levels of the personnel who constituted the study were not different according to their income levels. It can be said that the servant leadership levels of the personnel with a monthly income of less than 5000 Turkish liras and those with an income of more than 5001 Turkish liras are similar ( $t = 0.37$ ,  $P = 0.69$ ). It was determined that cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel were not different according to their income levels. It can be said that the cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel with a monthly income of less than 5000 Turkish liras and those with an income of more than 5001 Turkish liras are similar ( $t = -0.67$ ,  $P = 0.50$ ). It was determined that effective cynicism levels of the participants were not different according to their income levels. It can be said that the effective cynicism levels the personnel with a monthly income of less than 5000 Turkish liras and those with an income of more than 5001 Turkish liras are similar ( $t = 0.28$ ,  $P = 0.78$ ). It was determined that behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel who participated in the study were not different according to their income levels. It can be said that the behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel with a monthly income of less than 5000 Turkish liras and those with an income

of more than 5001 Turkish liras are similar ( $t = 0.10$ ,  $P = 0.92$ ). It was determined that the emotional burnout levels of the personnel were not different according to their income levels. It can be said that the emotional burnout levels of the personnel with a monthly income of less than 5000 Turkish liras and those with an income of more than 5001 Turkish liras are similar ( $t = 1.10$ ,  $P = 0.27$ ). It was determined that desensitization levels were not different according to income levels. It can be said that the desensitization levels of the personnel with a monthly income of less than 5000 Turkish liras are higher than those with an income of more than 5001 Turkish liras ( $t = -2.80$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was determined that the personal success levels of the participants were not different according to their income levels. It can be said that the personal success levels of the personnel with a monthly income of less than 5000 Turkish liras and those with an income of more than 5001 Turkish liras are similar ( $t = -0.90$ ,  $P = 0.37$ ).

### 3.3. The Examination of the Correlation between Dimensions

As a result of this study, it was seen that servant leadership perception levels and cognitive cynicism levels of the participants have a negative and moderate

significant correlation ( $r=-0.46$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was seen that servant leadership perception levels and affective cynicism levels of the personnel have a negative and moderate significant correlation ( $r=-0.43$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ).

Furthermore, it was seen that servant leadership perception levels and behavioral cynicism levels have a negative and moderate significant correlation ( $r=-0.23$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ) (Table 11 and 12).

**Table 11.** Servant leadership and cynicism (n=300)

Dimensions		Cognitive	Effective	Behavioral
Servant Leadership	r	-0.46*	-0.43*	-0.23*
	p	0.01	0.01	0.01

\* $P < 0,05$

**Table 12.** Servant leadership and burnout (n=300)

		Emotional Burnout	Desensitization	Individual Achievement
Servant Leadership	r	-0.35*	-0.31*	0.17*
	p	0.01	0.01	0.01

\* $P < 0,05$

As a result of this study, it was seen that servant leadership perception levels and emotional burnout levels of the personnel have a negative and weak significant correlation ( $r=-0.35$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was seen that servant leadership perception levels and desensitization

levels of the participants have a negative and weak significant correlation ( $r=-0.31$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). Furthermore, it was seen that servant leadership perception levels and personal success levels have a positive and very weak significant correlation ( $r=0.17$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ) (Table 13).

**Table 13.** Organizational cynicism and burnout (n=300)

		Cognitive	Effective	Behavioral
Emotional Burnout	r	0.48*	0.52*	0.43**
	p	0.01	0.01	0.01
Desensitization	r	0.40**	0.46**	0.34*
	p	0.01	0.01	0.01
Individual Achievement	r	-0.04	-0.12*	-0.05
	p	0.49	0.04	0.41

\* $P < 0,05$ , \*\* $P < 0,01$

As a result of this study, it was seen that the emotional burnout levels and cognitive cynicism levels of the personnel who constituted the study, have a positive and moderate significant correlation ( $r=0.48$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was seen that the emotional burnout levels and the effective cynicism levels of the participants have a positive and moderate significant correlation ( $r=0.52$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was seen that, the emotional burnout levels and the behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel have a positive and moderate significant correlation ( $r=0.43$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was seen that the desensitization, the sub-dimension of burnout; and the cognitive cynicism, the sub-dimension of cynicism, levels of the participants have a positive and moderate significant correlation ( $r=0.40$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was seen that, the desensitization and the sub dimension behavioral cynicism levels of the participants have a positive and moderate significant correlation ( $r=0.46$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). Furthermore, it was seen that, desensitization and behavioral cynicism sub dimension have a positive and moderate significant correlation ( $r=0.34$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). It was seen that, personal success levels and cognitive cynicism levels of the

personnel do not have a significant correlation ( $r=-0.04$ ,  $P = 0.49$ ). It was seen that, personal success and affective cynicism levels have a negative and very weak significant correlation ( $r=-0.12$ ,  $P = 0.04$ ). Moreover, it was seen that, personal success levels and behavioral cynicism levels of the personnel do not have a significant correlation ( $r=-0.05$ ,  $P = 0.41$ ).

#### 4. Conclusion

It was determined that the participants' servant leadership levels do not differentiate by their sexes or marital status. This shows that male and female employees have similar levels of servant leadership perception. It was determined that desensitization, the sub-dimension of burnout, differentiates by the participants' marital status. In the study, it was seen that participants' levels of servant leadership perception and cognitive, effective and behavioral cynicism levels had a negative significant correlation. This shows that servant leadership is an essential element in order to decrease organizational cynicism, which is an unwanted situation in organizations. Furthermore, in the study it was seen

that the participants' levels of servant relationship perception and emotional burnout and desensitization sub-dimensions had a negative significant correlation. This shows that just like organizational cynicism, the perception of servant leadership is very essential for burnout. These results highlight the importance of servant leadership once more. Between the perception of servant leadership levels and individual achievement, there was a very low and positive correlation. In the study, generally, burnout and cynicism levels were seen to have an inverse correlation with servant leadership levels. On the other hand, burnout and cynicism levels had a positive correlation. In the study, it was observed that participants who had high perceptions of burnout and cynicism had lower perceptions of servant leadership, in other words, participants who had a high perception of servant leadership had lower burnout and cynicism. This study as a whole shows that managers increasing their servant leadership levels will also increase servant leadership perceptions of the employees, and this rise will decrease their levels of organizational cynicism and burnout. Education programs about servant leadership should be given to managers because servant leadership can emerge only by creating a vision and a change. This study being only applied to Ankara Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry creates its limitations. In the future, spatial studies about this topic will bring different results with them.

#### **Author Contributions**

All the authors declare that they have all participated in the design, execution, and analysis of the paper and that they have approved the final version.

#### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declared that there is no conflict of interest.

#### **Ethical Approval**

A retrospective ethics permit is not required for the articles, which were produced from used master/doctorate or research studies before 2020.

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## DETERMINING THE GLOBAL CORONA AGENDA VIA GOOGLE TRENDS

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**Abstract:** During the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, many fake news and misleading information that could cause fear and panic among the public spread around the world. In this study, we aimed to determine online search behavior and frequency of use of infodemic monikers regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. Searches were made between December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The top five infodemic and scientific COVID-19 terms trending (coronavirus/koronavirüs, corona/korona, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, novel coronavirus/) in Turkish and English in all categories (web, visuals, shopping, etc.) in Turkey and worldwide were searched. It was found that the highest search volume was related to the search term "koronavirus" in Turkey and worldwide. It was determined that the society used infodemic words instead of scientific terms. The word "korona" had highest search volume, while in the more developed regions (Istanbul, İzmir, Bursa, Ankara), "COVID-19", "SARS-CoV-2" search words were preferred. COVID-19 (value=3), SARS-COV-2 (value <1) and "novel coronavirus (value <1)" search terms were the least preferred search terms worldwide. It was determined that people mostly preferred infodemic monikers. Google Trends (GT) data can use to determine information needs of the public with respect to the disease, public approach and to plan suitable strategies.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Google Trends, Infodemia, Pandemic

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### 1. Introduction

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a condition caused by a new strain of coronavirus, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). SARS-CoV-2 was first identified on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (Bilimsel Danışma Kurulu, 2020; Novel, 2020; Wang et al., 2020, WHO, 2020).

The pandemic that was declared with the emergence of COVID-19 and fight of countries against the pandemic became an item on the global media agenda (Umar et al., 2021). Rapid spread and mortality of the disease caused concern and fear (Kelvin and Rubino, 2020). People have been doing online searches thousands of times every day with respect to this newly identified virus, the disease it causes, the reasons underlying its emergence, and protection methods (Abd-Alrazaq et al., 2020).

During a pandemic, social communication and behavior among the public is very important (Tausczik et al., 2012). People need to seek information in the unknown conditions they face. Today, the internet is one of the first options to search for information. The majority of society use the internet to quickly access the information they need. They want to learn as much as they need and not spend time with knowledge that requires expertise (Uçak and Al, 2000). People may access both useful information and misleading/false information online. Fake news,

misleading and false information circulating the Internet are referred to as infodemics. During pandemics, another outbreak that turns illness anxiety into a psychological crisis and is more dangerous than the virus itself is infodemia (Yu et al., 2020). Misinformation can cause unnecessary panic and anxiety in the society (Üçer, 2016). Hence, it is very important to monitor internet activities and ensure that society has access to correct information sources to learn the right information. Use of internet data has become an integral part of health informatics over the past decade and can be useful for analyzing and predicting human behavior (Anonymous, 2020a). The search for data derived from the internet for epidemiological purposes is called "infodemiology" (Mavragani and Ochoa 2019; Eysenbach, 2011).

Internet search data are used to analyze information search activity by public with respect to infectious disease epidemics. These are the most widely used websites in Google internet searches (Nutri et al., 2014, Jun et al., 2018). Google trends, which gives analysis of Google search data, have been used in many studies to analyze search behavior of the public (Anonymous, 2020a; Dey and Zhao, 2020). Google Trends (GT), which consists of the search volumes of terms determined by users on the Google search engine, is the source of data most frequently used to analyze information search activity (Jun et al., 2018). Therefore, GT can be used with



respect to showing people's search tendency worldwide (Anonymous, 2020b; Higgins et al., 2020; Dey and Zhao, 2020).

It is thought that this study will contribute to obtaining information about the information seeking behaviors of the public and to the development of interventions that provide accurate health information seeking behaviors.

## 2. Material and Methods

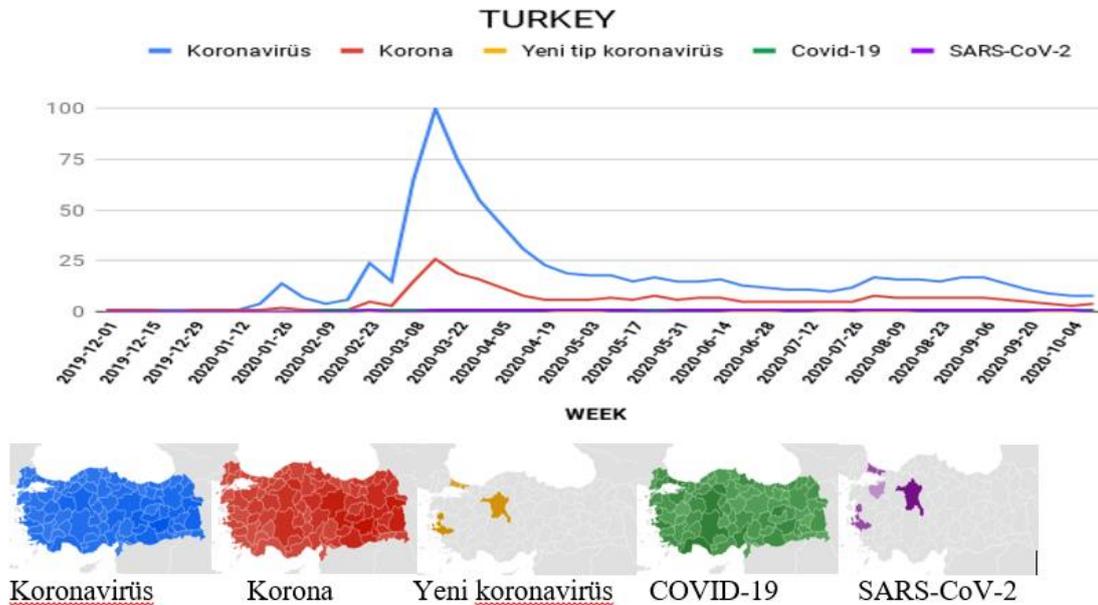
Aim of this study is to evaluate internet search behaviour related to the global COVID-19 pandemic using Google Trends.

Study data was obtained using Google Trends. While the highest interest in searches was represented in Google Trends as 100, lack of interest or insufficient data was represented as 0. Searches were made between December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The top five infodemic and scientific COVID-19 terms (coronavirus/koronavirüs, corona/korona, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, novel coronavirus/yeni tip koronavirüs) in

Turkish and English in all categories (health, web, visuals, shopping, etc.) were searched in Turkey and worldwide. Literature, scientific institutions providing data (WHO, CDC, the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Health) social media, hashtags, news bulletins were analyzed to decide search terms (Jun et al., 2018; Khan and Ramsahai 2020; Rios et al., 2020; Rovetta and Bhagavathula, 2020a). In the study, the searches made worldwide and searches in our country were presented in figures and graphs. The Google relative search volume was evaluated based on region and time. Additionally, searches and subjects showing increase in relation to the keywords were stated.

## 3. Results

The top five infodemic and scientific COVID-19 terms trending in Turkey, according to inputs in Google search, were "koronavirüs", "korona", "yeni tip koronavirüs", "COVID-19", "SARS-CoV-2" (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** The top infodemic and scientific terms relating to COVID-19 trending in Turkey.

From December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the keyword that yielded the greatest search value was "korona"; it had a search volume of 100 on March 12<sup>th</sup>. "Koronavirüs" word had the second highest search volume with 31 search volume. "COVID-19", "yeni tip koronavirüs" and "SARS-CoV-2" search words were the least preferred words in Turkey (value=1).

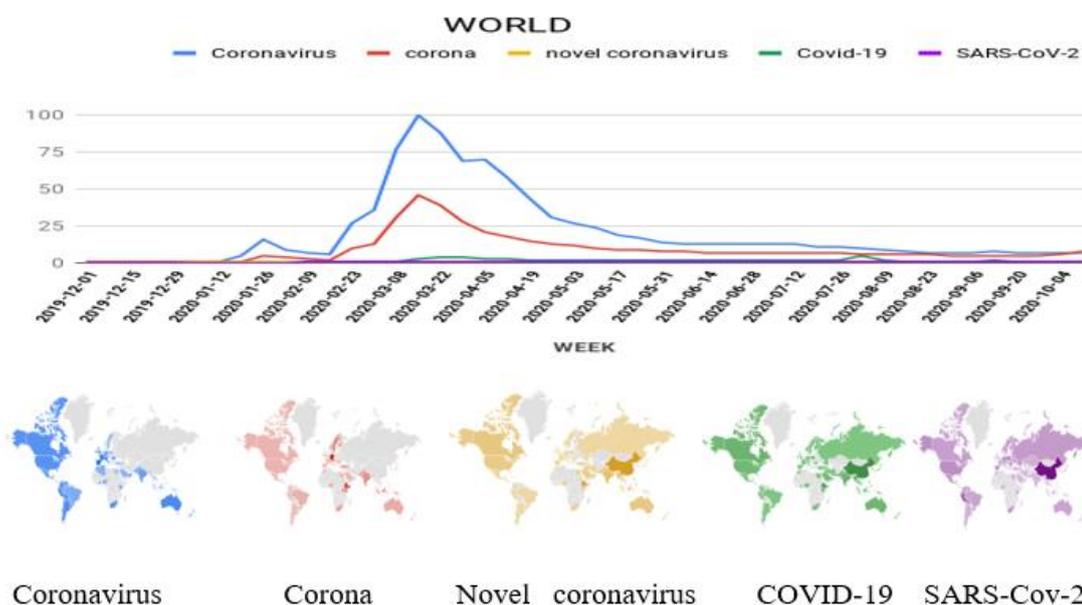
Table 1 shows subjects and queries with the highest hits in Turkey related to the "koronavirüs" search word. Information about the spread of coronavirus in other countries, disease symptoms, and updates about the latest situation in our country were searched the most in Turkey in relation to coronavirus.

**Table 1.** Related queries with the greatest hits related to the searchword on Turkey and on World

Search word	Related queries	
"Koronavirüs" Turkey	Corona	What is coronavirus
	Turkey coronavirus	Coronavirus world
	Last minute coronavirus	Coronavirus italy
	Coronavirus symptoms	Coronavirus table
	Coronavirus map	Corona virus news
	Coronavirus end condition	Ministry of Health coronavirus
"Coronavirus" World	Number of coronavirus	Coronavirus test
	Coronavirus update	Corona virus deutschland
	Coronavirus case	What coronavirus
	Coronavirus italya	Covid19
	Coronavirüs chine	Corona virus death
	Coronavirüs usa	Coronavirus tips
Coronavirus france	Coronavirus latest	

The top five infodemic and scientific COVID-19 terms trending in the World, according to inputs from Google search, were "coronavirus," "corona", "COVID-19," "novel coronavirus", and "SARS-COV-2" (Figure 2). From December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the keyword that yielded the highest search value was "coronavirus". It had a search volume of 100 on March 15<sup>th</sup>. COVID-19

(value=3), SARS-COV-2 (value <1) and "novel coronavirus (value <1)" search terms were the least preferred search terms worldwide. While SARS-COV-2 and novel coronavirus search terms were the most preferred terms in China, Italy became the most searched country using the "coronavirus" term. Upward trend of search results was similar to that in Turkey.



**Figure 2.**The top infodemic and scientific terms relating to COVID-19trending in worldwide.

**4. Discussion**

In the last two decades, the world has encountered numerous infectious diseases like Ebola, swine flu (H1N1), SARS, MERS, and the Zika virus (Bhadoria et al., 2021). Emergence of the novel coronavirus in China in 2019 led to a global pandemic and a major public health problem. The current pandemic we are experiencing causes a pressure on national and global health systems while also posing a global risk in terms of human health (Phelan et al., 2020). During this period, people have been trying to reach the information they need via the

internet (Li, et al., 2020). According to results, it is seen that people prefer searching for infodemics rather than scientific words. "koronavirüs" keyword yielded the greatest search value in Turkey. "Korona" word had the second highest search volume."COVID-19", "yeni tip koronavirüs", and "SARS-CoV-2" search terms were the least preferred words in Turkey (value=1). The words used in searches show regional differences in Turkey. In the eastern provinces (Ardahan, Muş, Siirt, Bayburt), the word "korona" had the highest search volume, while in more developed regions (İstanbul, İzmir, Bursa, Ankara),

“COVID-19”, “SARS-CoV-2” search words were preferred. A similar study conducted in Italy identified “novel coronavirus,” “China coronavirus,” “COVID-19”, “2019-nCoV,” and “SARS-CoV-2” as the top trending infodemic and scientific COVID-19 terms. “China coronavirus” was the most frequently searched term in Italy (Rovetta and Bhagavathula, 2020b).

In the study, it is seen that searches differed according to time (Figure 1). COVID-19 epidemic was first revealed in China on January 13th, as of this date, it became an item in the global agenda (WHO, 2020). Examination of Google Trends shows that searches related to COVID-19 in Turkey started to increase as of January 20th. While RSVs in Turkey were below 25 on January 20th, they reached 25 on January 31st. Regarding this increase, it is considered that people initially thought the pandemic would be limited to China, and when COVID-19 appeared in Italy on January 30th, the perception of personal threat increased and people started to do more searches to learn about the virus (WHO, 2020). According to Google Trends data, in searches made in Turkey until February 20th, the relative search volumes were below 25. Searches in Turkey rapidly increased with the appearance of COVID-19 case in bordering Iran on February 19th. As of this date, relative search volumes related to COVID-19 have shown rapid increase in our country. Appearance of the first case in our country was reported on March 11th. As of this date, relative search volumes related to COVID-19 reached about 75. The first COVID-19 death case in Turkey was reported on March 18th and relative search volume reached 100 on this date, with searches decreasing in the days after March 22nd (Bilimsel Danışma Kurulu, 2020). After April 23rd, the search volume for COVID-19 dropped below 25. According to results, public interest to COVID-19 continued for 35 days in Turkey. This search behaviour leads to the thought that people’s search activity increases with the tendency to panic. This situation may be caused by anxiety of being close to the border of a country severely affected by the pandemic. In addition, Internet access is low compared to other regions due to the lack of infrastructure and socioeconomic inadequacies resulting from the geographical characteristics of east Anatolian region. The relatively high search percentage of people that have internet access in this region compared to other cities may be the reason of this outcome. In the study of Husnayain et al. (2020), it was determined that searches were associated with risk perception.

Search trends around the world are similar to search trends in Turkey. The keyword that yielded the highest search value was “coronavirus” worldwide. “COVID-19”, “SARS-CoV-2” and “novel coronavirus” search words were the least preferred search words worldwide. But “SARS-CoV-2” and “novel coronavirus” search words were the most preferred in China. Search trends varied over time worldwide. Worldwide relative search volumes related to the search word “coronavirus” increased after

the first case was revealed in China. Search trends started to rise for 7 days after the first case appeared in China (Figure 2). The World Health Organization announced on January 30th that an “International public health emergency” was declared regarding the new type of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in China. Search volume reached 17 on this date and then dropped again. Search volume soared with deaths reported in many countries on February 19th and relative search volumes reached 100 on March 15th. Searches decreased in the days after March 18th. After May 1st, search volume for COVID-19 dropped below 25. According to this result, interest of the public to coronavirus continued for 42 days in the world. Another study found that searches showed strong correlations with real-world cases and deaths (Higgins et al., 2020; Cancharı et al., 2020; Badell-Grau et al. 2020).

With the inclusion of small search data, coronavirus-related searches were made in 252 separate countries or areas. According to WHO data, coronavirus was detected in 216 countries or areas (WHO, 2020).

## 5. Conclusion

In the study, it was seen that people used infodemic words to search. People’s exposure to misinformation can cause fear and panic. For this reason, it is important to inform the public so that they can access the information they need.

In the case of health-threatening incidents, GT data can be used to determine information needs of the public with respect to the disease and to plan suitable communication strategies.

## Author Contributions

All authors have equal contributions. All authors reviewed and approved the manuscript.

## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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## Ethical Approval/Informed Consent

Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the University Ethics Commission (Decision number: 95799348-050.01.04-E.9915 and date: 15.04.2020). The study was conducted in accordance with the International Helsinki Declaration.

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## HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW OF THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED AFTER 2008 RUSSO-GEORGIAN WAR

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**Abstract:** In the current paper, we try to showcase the historical - geographical overview of the Russian occupied territories in Shida Kartli. Apart from this, we also try to showcase the ancient Georgian toponyms, hydronyms and oikonyms of Didi Liakhvi gorge, and how the transformation of which into Ossetian onomastic units started from the time the Soviet government came to power in the country. In the first half of the XV century, the Machabels feudal kingdom was established in Didi Liakhvi Gorge. The influence of Machabeli's also extended to Dvaleti and Zhele Gorges. "Samachablo" was bordered by Ksani Saeristavo (Dukedom) estates from the east. The nobility of Pavlenishvili, Amilakhvari and Kherkheulidze were bordered on the south and south-west and on the north-west Racha Saeristavo. According to one relatively late (1886) document and map attached to it, which give us an idea of the estates owned by the descendants of Abesalom Machabeli (Davit's son). To the west, it was separated from the Tsereteli estates in Racha Mazra. The northern border followed river Terg and main ridge of the Caucasus. According to the above mentioned map, Machabeli estates were bordered on the north by Tergi district and Vladikavkazi district. In the North Caucasus Machabeli owned an integral part of Georgia from ancient times - Dvaleti, where Ossetians settled later. The Dvals occupy an area of about 500 km<sup>2</sup> from the left bank of the river Tergi - to the head of the Ardon, in Nar - Mamisoni Cave and six Gorges (Zakha, Nara, Zramaga, Zrogo, Zhele and Kasri). Dvaleti was included in the flock of Nikozi Bishop. Most of the toponyms, anthroponyms, ethnonyms common in Dvaleti are of Georgian origin. In 1843 at the initiative of Russian government, "Ossetian District" was created, which administratively entered in Tbilisi province. However, in the territory of historical Dvaleti, the so-called "Nari district" was established, which was transferred to Tergi district in 1859 and because of this an important territory, that was historically part of Georgia (approximately 500 m<sup>2</sup>) was artificially removed from our country and the historical part of Georgia - Dvaleti was annexed to Ossetia (actually - Russia).

**Keywords:** Toponyms, Hydronyms, Oikonyms, Didi Liakhvi Gorge, Shida Kartli, Machabeli

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### 1. Introduction

On February 25, 1921 the violent act against the Independent Republic of Georgia ended with the Sovietization of the country and the overthrow of the legitimate government abroad. The assault on Georgian statehood by the Bolshevik regime did not end there. At the initiative of the Soviet authorities, by using ethnic minorities to "solve" their problems autonomous formations emerged in our historical land, where there was a continuous line of life of Georgians, their socio-political, economic or cultural existence. The Bolshevik government had a perfidious idea that the autonomous units created in Georgia should function as "permanent mines". Such a load was acquired by the mountainous part of historical Shida Kartli, where Ossetians moved from the North Caucasus. A decree adopted on April 24, 1922 legalizing the creation of an autonomous region for Ossetians migrating from the north in several of Shida Kartli valleys, further deepened the narrative created by Bolshevik government, according to which Ossetians living in Georgia had been oppressed for centuries and they deserved broad autonomous rights in a country

based on "equality" principle. Despite the creation of an autonomous region for Ossetians by force at the expense of Georgian villages, peaceful life seemed to be between Ossetians and local Georgians in Georgia, however, the "Cold War" between them was going on continuously and was constantly promoted by Soviet authorities, because this effective tool of Kremlin policy - the epicentre of ethnic conflict - has not lost the ability to act at the desired time. At first glance, relations between Georgians and Ossetians living in the former autonomous region were well-established, but in reality, the ideologues of a totalitarian state instilled in the Ossetian society, that of a constant hatred of Georgians. At the dawn of the collapse of this huge monster of the Soviet Union, when the expectation was created that of the leaving the Russian orbit of our country, the first signs of confrontation between Georgians and Ossetians appeared, which very soon, as a result of the reckless, emotional action of both sides, according to the scenario drawn up by the special forces of the "Third Force", turned into a fratricidal war. Cracks have deepened in the relationship between peoples living under one roof over the centuries. The



immeasurable steps taken by the unpatriotic forces of the Georgian and Ossetian peoples endangered the future prospects of the two brotherly nations, insulted ethnic and civic values. The Georgian - Ossetian conflict, after the 90s of the XX century, was once replaced by peaceful coexistence. Although the Ossetian separatists created a de facto state in the Georgian space, the severe consequences of the war did not stop the mutual longing of Georgian and Ossetian people. The traditions of Georgian - Ossetian relations continued, mixed families were formed and hope for reconciliation of the two peoples arose. In anticipation of the embryo of a future peaceful coexistence, the Russian provocation did not delay and the fatal mistakes of both sides led to the August 2008 war, which killed many people of both Georgian and Ossetian nationality. The territory of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region - historic Georgian villages and settlements were occupied by the Russian occupation forces. Ethnic cleansing was carried out: Georgians were expelled from their homes and thousands of Georgian families became refugees in their own country, the occupation of the mountainous range of historic Shida Kartli did not end there. The occupation forces and the Ossetian separatists in their service burned and destroyed the Georgian villages. This vandalism was followed by the conversion of indigenous Georgian onomastic units into Ossetian and Russian, with the aim of erasing traces of Georgian life. The rich cultural heritage was in a difficult situation in the occupied territory: historical monuments, frescoes, lapidary inscriptions ... After the recognition of South Ossetia as an independent state by Russia, appeared the so-called line of occupation, which is often expanded through „creeping occupation” at the expense of Georgian villages and lands. Beyond the barbed wire were: Gorges of East, Middle and West Prone, Didi and Patar Liakhvi, “Saeristavo” of Historical Ksani... The current paper aims to showcase the history of one of the parts of historical Shida Kartli - Didi Liakhvi Gorge captured by the occupation forces. The name of the territory of the former South Ossetian Autonomous Region - „Samachablo”, which is often used in the context of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and the August war 2008 is incorrect and has been mentioned many times in our historiography and in various publications. After the occupation of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, the territory, which belonged to several noble houses in Shida Kartli in the Middle Ages moved in the artificially created South Ossetian Autonomous Region. The villages of the Machabeli nobility, the historic Ksani “Saeristavo”, the small parts of Pavlenishvili and Palavandishvili nobility, Racha “Saeristavo” and Satseretlo were forcibly converted to the borders of the district. One third of the occupied territory of Shida Kartli is Didi Liakhvi Gorge, where continuous traces of Georgians life can be seen from the Eneolithic-Bronze Age. This is confirmed by archaeological excavations conducted at several locations in Didi Liakhvi Gorge in the last century. Didi Liakhvi

Gorge for a very long period of time of the history was in Machabeli nobility ownership in the mentioned area and it is not accidental that it is still referred to as “Samachablo”. The social, economic, cultural or political processes in Didi Liakhvi Gorge for many centuries were closely connected and intertwined with the noble house of Machabeli, which left an indelible mark in the memory of the people living in this part of Shida Kartli. The villages of Didi Liakhvi Gorge owned by the Machabeli often play a crucial role in the processes, that were organically related to the state life of our country at all stages of its development.

## 2. Method

The article uses not only empirical but clear theoretical methodologies such as: generalization, analyses, syntheses, abstraction, systemic approach, comparative-historical method and causality analyses.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Didi Liakhvi basin covers an area under 1500 km<sup>2</sup>. It originates between the Dvaleti, Mtiuleti and Gudisi ridges, in Keli volcanic highlands at the confluence of the rivers: Kadlasanistskali and Deskokhirdon, 2338 m. above sea level and it flows to Muguta in the northwest (Georgian Soviet Encyclopaedia, 1983).

At the confluence of the Kharuli and Ermani ridges at the village Zgubili, Liakhvi is joined with Ermanistskali from the left, relatively south - Gudisdoni and from the right - Jomalistskali. Above Gupta in the middle of Didi Liakhvi, there is its left tributary –the river Patsa and at Sverisi joined with the river Trapula from the west. Then DidiLiakhvi turns to the southeast. PataraLiakhvi joins in the village Shertuli at Dzevera and in Gori joins the river Mejuda, and thenLiakhvi flows into the Mtkvari as a left tributary. The total length of the river reaches 115 kilometres.

The climate in Didi Liakhvi Basin is continental and humid. The upper part is an alpine and subalpine zone. The average annual amount of atmospheric precipitation is 600-650 mm. The average annual air temperature near Tskhinvali is 9.6 °C and 1.6 °C in January and 20.3 °C in July. With increasing altitude, the temperature decreases and the average temperature on the volcanic summit of the neck is -5 °C and -6 °C.

The mountains at the headwaters of the river reach an altitude of 2500-3000 meters above sea level, while the lowlands around Tskhinvali are up to 870 m (Megrelidze, 1986). Vakhushti Batonishvili describes Didi Liakhvi Gorge as follows: “From the east of Kekhvi, Liakhvi is joined by a ravine Sveri and falls in the middle of Kemerti from the north, flows out to the mountain between this and Geri...Will go up the mountain to the north of the forest and reach the mountain Geri. At Sveri bridge trapula falls from the west and joins Liakhvi. Above it to Gupta, Liakhvi is joined by the river Patsa, flows out of Ertso, rises in the middle of the mountain to the east and

another ravine joins this ravine to the south, flows out of the same mountain to the east. Between the confluence of this ravine is joined with Patsa Patara - Java ravine, flows to Dualt-Gora, it is joined with Pasha Sokho ravine. Sokho ravine is joined with Keshelti ravine at Patsa and these ravines flow to Dualt-Gora (Batonishvili, 1973).

Traces of the population can be seen in Didi Liakhvi Gorge from ancient times. "Mtkvari-Araksi Culture" of the Early Bronze Age, which dates back to II half of IV millennium - II half of III millennium BC and is widely represented in Shida Kartli, including Didi Liakhvi gorge, which is confirmed by the archaeological material (Apkhazava, 1996) discovered during the excavations of Tskhinvali Natsargora, Zghudrisgverdi, Dzagina, Nuli, Gupta.

From the archaeological point of view, it is extremely important monuments Upper Palaeolithic period of Asheli found in Achabeti, as well as folds of andesite found out in 1952 as a result of archaeological excavations at Tamarasheni, Kusireti and Kverneti, which archaeologists attribute to the Lower Palaeolithic period (Tsozniashvili, 1986).

Neolithic tools were found in the village Rustavi and fragments of Eneolithic pottery, round hearths and other materials were found on the right bank of Prisi Gorge (Tsozniashvili, 1986).

From Trialeti cultural monuments in the Shida Kartli mountain range of the Middle Bronze Age it is noteworthy: Mounds of Nuli, Muguti, Avnevi, Prinevi, Tsunari, where variety of pottery has been revealed, weapons and other materials (Japaridze, 1968).

Among the archeological monuments of the Late Bronze-Early Iron age Kvasatlia burial draws attention, which presents both collective and individual tombs. Here the dead are buried in a mounded condition, on the right side. Such burials of the dead are common in Georgian burial monuments and are almost invariably found from ancient times to the IV century (Gotsadze, 1990). To the pottery, weapons and jewellery found in Kvasatlia burial many analogues can be found in the archaeological materials of Beshtasheni, Samtavro, Plavismani, Kornisi and other locations. Important archaeological materials were found in Striptazi (Striptazi is located in Gorge of the river DidiLiakhvi, north of Java, 4 kilometres away) Cemeteries of Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages (I-VIII centuries) revealed in Didi Liakhvi gorge, where the vast majority of more than 8 studied tombs indicates to a local, purely Iberian "rural culture". The similarity of the archaeological materials found in Shida Kartli and its mountainous strip confirms that the historical process was developing in the same way throughout its territory and the population living in the mentioned area has a common genesis. As for the onomastic units (hydronyms, toponyms, oikonimes) common in Didi Liakhvi Gorge, there is no doubt about their antiquity and Georgian origin. The roots of the Ossetian oikonimes in the relatively mountainous area are also of Georgian origin and they changed late, after the settlement of Ossetians.

The main hydronym of the gorge - Liakhvi - is still mentioned in written sources by Leonti Mroveli in the form of "Liakhui" (Kaukhchishvili, 1955).

Vakhushti Batonishvili uses the form "Liakhv" when naming the river. Researcher Abramishvili considers "Liakhvi" to be a compound of two composites: "Lami / Lia" (marsh) and "Khui" (roaring, comes whooshing, roared, etc.) - in the sense of noise and a number of Georgian historical sources gives an example (Abramishvili, 1971). Z. Chumburidze (1971) supports Svan origin of the name of the river: Li-Lekhu and Li-Lkhve (in Svan snow melting), Otinashvili (2016) thinks that Liakhvi is a combination of Lia and Khevi (ravine) and so on. One of the oldest Georgian toponyms is also "Tskhinvali", which has undergone the following changes over time: "Krtskhinvali/ Krtskhilvani/ Krtskhinuali/ Krtskhinvali/ Tskhinvali" should be explained with the existence of hornbeam forests in this area (M. Tsozniashvili, History of Tskhinvali, p. 31-33. Awesome, but in Ossetian and Russian Internet space, the toponym, "Tskhinvali" is described as an Alan "Sinkh/Sikh" settlement and a "Ual" upper, compound of composites. As we will see below, Ossetians still did not live in Tskhinvali at the end of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century and discussion on the existence of an Ossetian toponym 1700 years ago, in the III century is completely unfounded. According to the German scientist Johann Anton Guldenstedt, who visited Georgia in the in the 70s of the XVIII century, the Ossetians called Tskhinvali Kreba, Kreba (assembly). See: Guldenstedt's Travels in Georgia; German text was published with a Georgian translation and the research was attached by G. Gelashvili, Volume I, Tbilisi, 1962, p. 279). Platon Ioseliani considers Aspaguri, the king of Kartli, III century, to be the founder of the city (Иоселиани, 1850). It is connected with the reign of Queen Tamar (1184-1213), the establishment of another city near Tskhinvali - Tamarasheni. The old Georgian toponym is "Tiri" existing in Didi Liakhvi Gorge. According to Sulkhan - Saba, Tiri is a "soft and easy-to-cut rock". Sergi Makalatia (1971) connects the origin of Sabatsminda with St. Saba from Cappadocia (+532). We do not say anything about toponyms such as: Mskhlebi, Skhlebi (pears), Monasteri (monastery), Rustavi, Abotsminda, Natsargora, Dedagvitisa, etc.

Professor Gvasalia (1983) searches for Megrelian-Svan explanations for numerous toponyms in Didi Liakhvi Gorge. For example, in Didi Liakhvi Gorge there is a well-known village called Kurta and its equivalent in Chanuri and Megrelian is Kurta. "Tiri" means snow in Megrelian and others (Sosiashvili, 2013).

As it is known, in the early stages of the origin of the state and the social differentiation of the society, the territorial-administrative unit was "Khevi". "Khevebs" "Khevisuplebi" "Khevebis" abundance was properly reflected in Georgian micro and macro toponymy. Achabeti ravine mentioned in Armenian anonymous geographer of the VII century included the middle and

upper parts of the river Didi Liakhvi. According to Professor J. Gvasalia: "Later, the establishment of the feudal unit Samachablo in the mentioned area should have taken place on the basis of the pre-feudal Achabeti ravine" (Gvasalia, 1997).

Several "ravines" were formed into one of the "countries" (Ninidze, 2005). During the internal confrontation in Kartli in the 30s of XVIII century, "Machabeli accompanied KakhtBatoni, in anger Amilakhori brought an army of Lezgin and ravaged the Country of Machabeli" (Papuna Orbeliani, Stories of Kartli, the text was established, the introduction and dictionary and were added by Elene Tsagareishvili, Tbilisi, 1981, p. 76). Didi Liakhvi Gorge is very rich with flora and fauna. There are spruce and pine trees, as well as beech, hornbeam and oak forests. The wood-rich Mountains were an important source of income in Samachablo. The river Didi Liakhvi was used to move the extracted material (Tsozniashvili, 1986). Historic Samachablo is rich with healing sites as well. Vakhushti Batonishvili especially mentions in front of Khvtisi, on the other side of the river Liakhvi existing the so called "karkali smelling", which smells very hard, but cures wind, sadness and indigestion with smells" (Batonishvili, 1745). Java, Bagiata and others were famous for their healing waters in Didi Liakhvi Gorge (Га3, 1900). 31Vakhushti Batonishvili emphasizes the useful features of Didi Liakhvi: "Here Didi Liakhvi flows from Magran - Dvaleti, Truso and Zakhis Caucas and flows in the middle of south - west... There are the mountains adorned with flowers and grass... In these mountainous places flow pure, salty sources, making you to eat and drink, they are called acidic water, nourishing and fattening animals" (Га3, 1900). Liakhvi was rich with trout, carp and salmon (Gelashvili, 2002). In the mountainous part of Didi Liakhvi, the population had livestock, which was facilitated by the existing pastures here.

Vakhushti Batonishvili has described in detail the terrain of Didi Liakhvi Gorge. According to him the fields of agriculture were developed here, in particular fruit - growing and viticulture. The great geographer and historian speaks of the merits of the local wine: "Mount rises of the west, particularly from Krtskhinvali and emerges to the north and at Kekhvi narrows with the rock and then goes to the west up to Bekmara and at Kekhvi there is a bridge going to Sveri and under this Liakhvi annihilates even strong bridges. And from Gori to Suera there are villages with fruit-vineyards beyond Liakhvi, the wine is watery and sour, excellent for drinking" (Batonishvili, 1973). Vakhushti Batonishvili also points out the distinctive appearance and masculine qualities of the population of Didi Liakhvi Gorge: "The men of the Gorge are beautiful-airy, fighters, pursuers of shame, proud, loyal" (Batonishvili, 1973).

Didi Liakhvi Gorge was crossed by a number of important roads, through which it was possible to connect with different parts of the country, as well as with the North Caucasus. According to Vakhushti Batonishvili:

"Following the beginning of Zarmagi ridge the road of Kartli crosses Zekari on Didi Liakhvi" (Bagrationi, 1941). About the mentioned road G. Togoshvili writes: "From north to south it crossed the Ardon River Gorge and at the beginning of this Gorge on the northern border of the Nara Mamisoni basin was divided into two parts at the village Kvemo Zramagi. One branch of the road crosses the Mamisoni, or Chanchakhi pass, through Mamisoni (or Zhgele) Gorge and runs in the head of the Rioni River in Racha. From here it is connected with Kutaisi and other regions of western Georgia. The second branch of the road runs south from the same lower Zramaga through the Nardoni and Zakidoni Gorges, crossing the Roki pass and connects with Kartli plain districts with the Gorge of river Didi Liakhvi" (Togoshvili, 1966).

Samachablo had a great importance with the so-called "Achabeti Road". In this way it was possible to connect with Dvaleti and North Caucasus. Due to its territorial proximity, viceroy of the Caucasus Mikheil Vorontsov built a new road from Tskhinvali to Roki connecting with Transcaucasia (Epemiashvili, 1867). In the beginning of XIX century at the initiative of the Russian government in Samachablo, they also used the postal road. The mentioned road passed through the village Kurta. A letter dated July 14, 1804, sent by a Russian official Volkonsky to Governor-General Pavle Tsitsianov, stated that in Didi Liakhvi Gorge, the road used by the post office had already been opened. According to a written decree of Pavle Tsitsianov, Ksani Eristavi and Machabeli were given some instructions on how to use the road by the local population. Kurta postal road was to be serviced by conductors. For security reasons, hostages should be taken from Ossetians living in the mountains to prevent Ossetians from attacking passengers (Epemiashvili, 1867).

There were several roads from Samachablo to Racha. According to the professor J. Gvasalia, these roads were: 1) Tskhinvali - Kekhvi - Patsa, river Keshelta - Letisi, Zekari, Jejori Gorge - Oni; 2) Tskhinvali - Kekhvi - Patsa - Javistavi - Zamtareti - Arashenda - Chasavali, Jejori bank - Oni; 3) Tskhinvali - Patsa - Ertso - Jejori bank - Oni (Gvasalia, 1991).

Road route from Didi Liakhvi Gorge to western Georgia, according to S. Makalatia was presented as follows: From "Gori-Tskhinvali - to Kekhvi, then from Tsona - Chikhati - to Sachkhere, Oni and so on". Johann Anton Guldenstadt- German traveller, who visited Georgia in the 70s of the XVIII century, used the road from Samachablo to western Georgia. The traveller moved from Didi Liakhvi Gorge with an accompanying detachment to Patsi Gorge. On the left bank of Patsi, he mentions the villages: Gvertseri, Kolalto. The traveller crossed the bridge near Kolalto and passed the village Tamuta, then Tsakho, which was located on the west side of Patsi. Here he saw the castle that Prince Machabel used as a summer residence. From Tsakho he arrived in the village Tsona at the head of the river Kvirila (Sosiashvili, 2015). The road used by Guldenstedt to go from

Tskhinvali to Racha was one of the most important at that time. Guldenstedt addresses this path in a brief review, which he wrote about Russian-Georgian relations. He mentions that in 1768, Lieutenant Fabulov (G. Gelashvili - translator and publisher of Guldenstedt's text equates him with Khvabulov, also known as Kobulashvili) in Didi Liakhvi Gorge passed Nari from Ardoni Gorge up to Tskhinvali, and from there went to Racha through Jaukoma (Java) to the Racha to meet Solomon I (Gelashvili, 1964). This road was used even later. Solomon II used it when he moved from Imereti to Patara Liakhvi Gorge, in particular to the village Vanati and met with the governor Tormasov. Ioane Kartvelishvili, scribe of Yulon (Erekle's son) mentions the road from Patara Liakhvi Gorge passing Didi Liakhvi Gorge going to Imereti. According to him, Yulon Batonishvili fleeing to safety in Imereti with this way, when Davit Batonishvili (Giorgi's son) was going to invade in Patara Liakhvi Gorge against him (Kartvelishvili, 1952). 47 Guldenstedt named other roads, including the road connecting with Stepantsminda: "The usual road from Stepantsminda goes to Kutaisi, through Largvisi Monastery (on Ksani). Approximately - 93 verst. On Didi Liakhvi to Krtskhinvali - 50 verst" (Gelashvili, 1964). This report does not show the exact route of the road, but other sources at our disposal make it possible to determine the road from Stepantsminda to Didi Liakhvi Gorge. Giorgi Liakhveli (Chochishvili) the correspondent of the newspaper "Droeba" in the 80s of the XIX century used this way. From Stepantsminda he arrived in Patara Liakhvi Gorge, in the village Vanati (Sosiashvili, 2007). 49 The road from Stepantsminda connected to Patara Liakhvi gorge, from there it was possible to go to both Ksani and Didi Liakhvi Gorges. As Guldenstedt points out, the road connected Didi Liakhvi Gorge with the Aragvi Gorge as well. This route was also used by the Lezgin, who invaded from the North Caucasus: "Near Iltoz, between Ksani and Narekvavi, there is a normal road for the Lezgin, from which they go from Aragvi, through Mchadisjvari, to the mountains to Lamiskana and Krtskhinvali" (Gelashvili, 1964). In the first half of the XV century, the Machabeli feudal house was established in Didi Liakhvi Gorge. The influence of Machabeli's also extended to Dvaleti and Zhgele Gorges. "Samachablo" was bordered by Ksani Saeristavo estates from the east. The nobility of Pavlenishvili, Amilakhvari and Kherkheulidze were bordered on the south and south-west and on the north-west Racha Saeristavo. According to one relatively late (1886) document and map attached to it (We would like to thank Mr. Vladimir Tsverava, Professor of Kutaisi State University and Mr. Merab Kezevadze, Director of Kutaisi Archives, for providing a copy of the map), which give us an idea of the estates owned by the descendants of Abesalom Machabeli (Davit's son). Machabeli estate was 11568 Tithe land. To the west, it was separated from the Tsereteli estates in Racha Mazra. The northern border followed river Terg and main ridge of the Caucasus. According to the above

mentioned map, Machabeli estates were bordered on the north by Tergi district and Vladikavkazi district (Tsverava and Katamadze, 2018). In the North Caucasus Machabeli owned an integral part of Georgia from ancient times - Dvaleti, where Ossetians settled later. The Dvals occupy an area of about 500 km<sup>2</sup> from the left bank of the river Tergi - to the head of the Ardon, in Nar - Mamisoni Cave and six Gorges (Zakha, Nara, Zramaga, Zrogo, Zhgele and Kasri). Dvaleti was included in the flock of Nikozi Bishop. Most of the toponyms, anthroponyms, ethnonyms common in Dvaleti are of Georgian origin (Topchishvili, 1997).

In 1843 at the initiative of Russian government, "Ossetian District" was created, which administratively entered in Tbilisi province. However, in the territory of historical Dvaleti, the so-called "Nari district" was established, which was transferred to Tergi district in 1859 and because of this an important territory, that was historically part of Georgia (approximately 500 km<sup>2</sup>) was artificially removed from our country and the historical part of Georgia - Dvaleti was annexed to Ossetia (actually - Russia) (Topchishvili, 1997).

#### **4. Conclusion**

As we have pointed out, in Didi Liakhvi Gorge there are ancient Georgian toponyms, hydronyms and oikonoms, the transformation of which into Ossetian onomastic units started from the time the Soviet government came to power in the country. E.g. Bagini became Bagiati, Bzhiskhevi - Sbaidoni, etc. (Topchishvili, 1997). Georgian village Tkisubani mentioned in the descriptions of 1804 and 1818 was renamed Znaur-Kau after the immortal Bolshevik revolutionary Znaur Aidarov. The process of transforming Georgian toponyms into Ossetian became more active especially after the August war 2008. In the official description of the so-called Republic of South Ossetia in 2015, Kemerti is already mentioned as Chemerti, Artsevi - Artseu, Goiantkari became Goata, Rustavi - Rustau. Indigenous Georgian villages such as Tamarasheni, Kekhvi, Dzartsemi, etc. are no longer mentioned in the description at all (URL 1).

#### **Author Contributions**

All works were done by the single author and the author reviewed and approved the manuscript.

#### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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## ANTI-STATE POLICY OF OSSETIANS RESIDING IN GEORGIA IN 1918-1921

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**Abstract:** On May 26, 1918, adoption of the Act of Independence, which established the Democratic Republic of Georgia by the National Council, has been the most significant event in Georgia's history. The First World War crisis and 1917 revolution incited nations, occupied by empire, to restore sovereignty. Georgia was one among these few. Georgia was declared as independent republic, governed by the national council, and soon after, most of European countries recognized its independence. Despite its short run, the first democratic republic had a fundamental impact on the history of Georgia. It was the only country from South Caucasus, where the Red Army failed to seize the power without fierce opposition. Georgians' relentless resistance was fed by anti-Bolshevik attitude. Democratic, humanistic course, equality in development and striving to build democratic country, ethnic tolerance and acceptance of European values were reflected in the act of independence and later, in the constitution. Although Georgian government always tried to respectfully apply status of minor ethnic group - Ossetians within the legal and state framework, unfortunately state could not always manage it. Generally, Ossetians, migrated to Georgia, had never have ethno- political or ethnoterritorial entity before socialization. "South Ossetia" as a concept of Ossetian settlement in mountainous Shida Kartli was fabricated over period of time after Russian Empire had annexed Georgian Kingdom. The idea was unjustified and unacceptable but well-designed and profitable for the Russian Empire. Ossetian separatism had revealed its nature from the very first day of Georgian independence. Deep-rooted Russian threat towards the Caucasus has always endangered integration of Georgia within European family. Constant and unquenched desire to stir up conflicts in Georgia, among Caucasus countries, was generated in Russian Empire and later was successfully and methodologically inherited by Soviet Russia. This approach had been deliberately destroying Caucasus platform and becoming part of European family seemed as a disappearing dream. However, Georgia was determined to be among European countries and sometimes was winning battles. One of those wins was an election of Catholicos-patriarch in September 1917, an event, which paved the road toward independence. But in 1921, Georgia was occupied thus new era of dreadful existence had started for the country.

**Keywords:** Independence united Caucasus, Separatism, Territorial integrity, Georgian-Ossetian, Soviet Russia, Bolshevism

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### 1. Introduction

May 26, 1918, adoption of the Act of Independence, which established the Democratic Republic of Georgia by the National Council, has been the most significant event in Georgia's history. The First World War crisis and 1917 revolution incited nations, occupied by empire, to restore sovereignty. Georgia was one among few. Georgia was declared as independent republic, governed by the national council, and soon most of European countries recognized its independence. On May 26, newspaper "Sakartvelo" wrote "From this day on, independence of our country is restored, cheers to Georgia, long live to Georgians!". Government of independent Georgia immediately started creating peaceful environment with Ottomans, allies and neighbor countries. Georgia has never started a war, but Russian government keeps trying to interfere and has managed to forcefully annual Georgia as a state. Started a war against the wishes of Georgian Nation, the war has been taken over by Transcaucasia, from which Georgia tries to extricate. Our

nation wishes to have friendly and amicable relationship with Ottoman Empire as Ottoman government also wishes to have peaceful relations with us, centuries show us that peaceful coexistence of two countries is beneficial and safe..." (Sakartvelo, 1918a).

The bright minds of the country gradually cultivated the idea of independence in the nation. "Tergdaleulebi's" yearning for starting periodicals, founding the charity "the society for the spreading of literacy among Georgians", founding Georgian theatre, starting open fight for restoration the autocephaly of the Georgian Orthodox Church etc. were examples of their deeds. Russia had its own demons to deal with after 300-year ruling of Romanov dynasty was over and loosened its grip on Caucasus. Georgian patriots took advantage and successfully executed their plan. Later, Zurab Avalishvili wrote in Paris on Georgia, facing the Rubicon of Independence.

How could you not hear in this single moment, the bubbling of historical elements, how could you not heed



the voice of everyone who has been gone for a long time, how not to think about those who will come? How many generations have created the Georgian nation and vainly sought for it the conditions of free development under the sun? So independence knocked on the door - how not to rush to meet it! If you miss this moment, how can the future answer to those who will be after us? Or is this people born only for slavery, for submission, and will finally turn into "ethnic material" from which, depending on the circumstances, Persians, Murki, or Russian are stamped? No, he remembers; he wants to rise and become himself again. Does he not want this? Will he sigh about his prison as Byron's "Prisoner of Chillon"? Empty it now and show up! The pages of history flip" (Avalishvili, 1981).

## **2. Method**

The article uses not only empirical but clear theoretical methodologies such as: generalization, analyses, syntheses, abstraction, systemic approach, comparative-historical method and causality analyses.

## **3. Results and Discussions**

Although the first democratic republic existed only short period of time, it made huge impact on the history of Georgia. It was the only country in South Caucasus that resisted The Red Army and caused anti - Bolshevik predisposition in public. Democratic, humanistic course, equality in development and striving to build democratic country, ethnic tolerance and acceptance of European values were reflected on the act of independence and later, on constitution. People waited for changes in anticipation as new era had started for the country. Impressions were well-described in Vlasa Mgeladze's poem (Vlasa Mgeladze: Commissioner of the People's Guard of the Democratic Republic of Georgia in 1918-1921, member of the National Council and the Constituent Assembly): "Georgian three - colored flag has revealed as Holly spirit in Tbilisi!, what a glorious day has started for us, long lost flag has been waiving on Krtsanisi field" (Mgeladze, V., (1934), May 26, (published by D. Kheladze), Paris, p: 67).

Keeping solid and friendly relationship with neighbor countries and the rest of the civilized world was vital for young Georgian democracy. Government took measures to strengthen diplomatic connections with developed countries and recognition of sovereignty. As you may know, it is unlikely that big and powerful countries show their interest in small countries or nation's problems at assemblies. However, approach changed in 1919. i.e. French conference (The Paris Peace Conference was a gathering organized by the victorious countries of World War I to conclude peace treaties between the Allies and the defeated powers. The conference opened at the Palace of Versailles in January 1919 and lasted for more than a year except for short intervals) of winner countries in the first world one1, aim of the conference

was creating new political map and new disposition. Georgian political spectrum made every effort to benefit from it. Conference Delegation members were Z. Avalishvili, I. Tsereteli (Irakli (Kaki) Tsereteli (1881-1959) - After the 1917 revolution, he held the post of Minister of Internal Affairs in the Provisional Government of Russia) and N. Chkheidze. On March 14, 1919 the delegation presented a map and a memorandum to other participants. Georgia was asking its allies to recognize independence and support the nation. Delegation members prolonged their visit in Paris and busied themselves with campaigning and propaganda. In 1920 (Earlier, in September 1919, the Argentine government recognized the state independence of Georgia) France, Italy, England and other countries recognized Democratic Republic of Georgia. Recognition had two sides: one, - the world wanted to localize Bolshevism in Russia and Georgia became trustworthy and well-known country after Soviet Russia had recognized its independence in May, 1920. The unfounded interest of Soviet Russia was an obstacle for developed countries and removing barrier meant that Georgia with its natural resources, strategic geo-political and important transit routes would be an interesting country to explore. Step by step even small victory would have been reflected on Georgian citizens "One more precious moments for Tiflis. News on Recognition of independence by peace conference spread like wildfire in Tiflis" (Sakartvelos Respublika, 1920). The same day, Noe Jordania, Gr. Lortkipanidze (Grigol Lortkipanidze (1881-1937) - political, state and public figure. 1918-1920 Minister of Defense of Georgia, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Education of Georgia), Al. Lomtadze (Alexander Lomtadze (1882-1924) - Georgian statesman and public figure, teacher, elected a member of the Parliament of Georgia along the lines of the Social-Democratic Party, served as Chairman of the Tbilisi City Council), Akaki Chkheneli (Akaki Chkhenkeli (1874-1959) - First Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Georgia) and others congratulated Georgians on this victory.

"It was a sight for a sore eye to see our spectacular army and guards, hero Val. Jugheli rides horse with dignity and honour, chief commissioner Wardrop (John Oliver Wardrop (1864-1948) - British diplomat, United Kingdom High Representative for the South Caucasus and Georgia (1919-1921)) says in Georgian" Cheers to Georgia!" (Sakartvelos Respublika, 1920).

Georgian's pathos and spirit, alas, was not always shared by some groups of minorities. Such as: some Ossetians, living in mountainous part of Shida Kartli. Although Georgian government always tried to respectfully apply status of minor ethnic group - Ossetians within the legal and state framework, unfortunately state could not always manage it. Generally, Ossetians, migrated to Georgia, had never have ethno- political or ethno-territorial entity before socialization. "South Ossetia" as a concept of Ossetian settlement in mountainous Shida

Kartli was fabricated over period of time after Russian Empire had annexed Georgian Kingdom. The idea was unjustified and unacceptable but well - designed and profitable for the Russian Empire (Historical and political-legal aspects of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and the main ways of resolving it, (1992), Tbilisi, p: 3). Ossetian separatism had revealed its nature from very first day of Georgian independence. According to the decree of the 5<sup>th</sup> South Ossetian convention, which took place in Java in 1918, we read: "South Ossetia is part of The Democratic Republic of Georgia based on the broad territorial self - government" (Sakartvelo, 1918b) there was another malicious entry in the decree: resolution on disarmament in particular:" we take into consideration the fact, that Ossetians are loyal to Georgian government, getting more powerful after joining The republic of Georgia and as Ossetians whole-heartedly guard achievement of Revolution, thus are against anarchy, convention believes that Georgian government doesn't wish to disarm Ossetians, therefore it gains our people's trust. The convention also believes that Ossetians do not give any reasons to Georgian government to start disarming process. The convention entrusted the negotiation to the national council" (Sakartvelos Respublika, 1918a.) despite the above mentioned facts and Ossetians' loyalty range, soon newspaper "Ertoba" had to inform its readers on tension in Tskhinvali region. It goes without saying that, majority of the population are not at fault and the author of the article is Ossetian, however, it's not challenging to find individuals who intentionally muddy the waters. To be exact, it's about failed elections in Java. "Unfortunately, we do not have democratic forces there, therefore, the poor have disadvantages and need our help, and otherwise they will be in worse situation than they are now. We call for Ossetian working class to join Georgian democracy and benefit from this union. If not, we will be in dire situation. People should do their own work and reject chauvinistic approaches of individuals, disguised themselves as fond of internationalism and in fact only generate animosity and malice" (Bibilov, 1918). Constant agitation-propaganda from the enemy side had its damaging outcome for the young democratic republic. Newspapers often appealed to the government to be extremely careful. There are two distinct callings: to be more attentive and proactive in foreign affairs, especially where enemies of our state live and the second, - to be more attentive toward the areas, where rebellions might stir up something" The government hastily used the army in Tskhinvali, the second dangerous region, where Ossetians tend to become weary. About one and half month ago, they seemed anxious and seemed to get ready for an uprising. Governments were proactive and send the army to the region. Rebels lost the appetite and enthusiasm but Ossetians eagerly carry on working and stirring up discontent in people. Denikin supporters help Ossetians of Tskhinvali thus; we have to expect joint armed activities against Georgia. This is the situation in

Tskhinvali" (Sakartvelo, 1918c) as we see soon enough, worrying was not unfounded. With Claims of caution there are news on trespassing and starting war activities, the year is 1919, July. Near the border of Ratcha, from Tergi district (The district of Tergi was established in 1860 by order of Emperor Alexander II. The formation in the eastern part of the North Caucasus included the territories of Chechnya, Ingushetia, Ichkeria and the mountainous regions. After the sovietization of the region, the Tergi district was abolished in 1920 and replaced by the independent territorial units of Chechnya and Ingushetia), so-called "Ossetian military road", around Mamisoni pass, the attack had started. Before describing the incident, we'd like to pinpoint some significant details for the reader: newspaper "republic of Georgia" had informed in August 1918 an agreement, based on the ultimatum, given by Georgia, was signed between Republic of Georgia and public council of Tergi district. Georgian representatives: Gerasime Makharadze (Gerasime Makharadze (1881-1937) - During 1918 he was a member of the Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, and from the following year a member of the Constituent Assembly along the lines of the Georgian Social-Democratic Workers' Party. From 1919 he was Deputy Minister of the Interior) and Vladimir Jugheli and the other side: Fritz Bulle, Jacob Arsanov and Gapur Arkhiev. An agreement comprises number of points:

1. Council of People's commissars freed Georgian citizens, imprisoned during uprising. Thus, issues concerning the prisoners are resolved.
2. Council of People commissars will try everything in its power to restrain every hostile force and restrict them to approach Georgian borders. Georgian government will promise to enforce Georgian army to move back to dislocation place in Lars.
3. A committee is to be formed on equal quota to document and evaluate damages. Council of People's commissars will try to return looted and stolen goods to Georgian part.
4. Both sides are obliged to maintain piece on their part of the military road etc. (Sakartvelos Respublika, 1918b).

Despite the agreement, on 24-26 July, next year, a group of 500 armed men of the other side attacked 25 Georgian border-guards, led by captain Chikovani. "Attackers of the other side were led by Denikin colonel Gutsunaev. Spies to show the roads were conspirator Ossetians" (Gordeziani, 1919) as it seems, spies were native Ossetians, who knew Georgian quite well and knew the roads and passes like the back of their hand" Georgian border-guards, with the position of their favor, repel the attack, enemies retreated with grave loss." Georgian solders fought with great self-sacrifice and devotion to their leader Chikovani, especially an officer Giorgobiani and Kopaleishvili, who fought fiercely and avoided ravaging of Georgian villages (Ibid)." help from Georgian side was led by colonel Intskirveli.

Tskhinvali region had become a ticking bomb. They started rebellion exactly when Georgia had harsh times and various issues to deal with. First attack on Tskhinvali was in 1918, during Georgian-Ottoman armed conflict, the aim of the next political conflict was to create separate district entity and make Tskhinvali the center of the district (1919). The next Ossetian rebellion, better organized and large scaled took place in 1920.

"Here, Russia's interest is obvious: they supported rebels politically, financially and logistically. The uprising started in 1920 and the purpose was to separate Shida Kartli, a historically Georgian territory, from Georgia and unite it with Russia. Georgia managed to suppress the revolt. However, the outcome was not all positive. Traces of ugly conflict stayed buried in both nations' minds, Russia made effort to disguise its role in this uprising, although the order for strike was from Russia, Georgia had to take strict penal measures against rebels as it was the third one and needed to be eradicated. The never-ending conflict effected Georgian democracy and peaceful residents of the region (Ossetians among them) to live without fear and destruction" (Guntsadze, 2014).

Above mentioned Ossetian uprising was well-responded by Georgian press in 1918-1920. Newspaper "Georgia", based on the source - the deputy chief of Gori district, writes: "Ossetians say: we must deport Georgians from this land and our people should settle in their places instead. A lot of Ossetians had resettled in Tskhinvali. These days Ossetian regiment consists of 300 men, they say, more people started to rejoin the regiment as a reinforcement" (Sakartvelo, 1918d) it's interesting to review arguments of Georgian public figure, - Shalva Amirejibi on the matter: "whole tragedy of Georgian democracy is that, when it stands on the ground of social reforms and democracy, the rest of the nations strive to work up Caucasus national policy of grabbing and snatching... this is today's moto and Ossetians declared rather unabashedly- Tskhinvali is ours, Georgian mountainous area is Ossetia...".

Reviewing Ossetian issues, newspaper "Georgia" often quoted authors such as: Sh. Amirejibi-(N69), G. Kikodze-(N124) and others. Policy of Democratic republic toward minorities had always been undifferentiated. Despite this moral and tolerance approaches, the government made great effort to strengthen ties with modern European society because of their democratic values (Sakartvelos Respublika, 1918c).

Moreover, to show tolerance toward ethnic diversity is imbedded in Georgian psyche, tradition, nature, thus made it natural and real for The Republic to strive for finding its rightful place within the family of other European democratic nations. "Republic of Georgia writes:" Georgians knew how to show respect to other nations and they know it know, however our country demands the same respect and acknowledgment of our democratic order as it is towards others. Republic of Georgia is a home for all nations, living in our soil" yearning for independence and strengthening democratic

governance, constant and indefatigable fight for internal and foreign affairs, gained Georgia sympathetic (we mean the Norwegian Dr. F. Nansens, The representative of South Africa, Lord R. Cecil and others) allies and enemies alike. Newspaper "Republic of Georgia" permanently tells its readers about situation Georgia is in, decisions the government had made on fighting for democracy. Chronology of success in international scope, every small or big success of establishing its place among democratic countries becomes front-page news on daily bases, which, itself makes enemies of state furious and wary. They tend to pull the country down in the abyss. However, pathos of the newspaper is optimistic all in all. The enemy is defeated." Georgia has managed to liquidate pernicious-distracting Bolshevism and repel the attack from slogan-happy counter-revolutionary enemy. This fight has ended with great victory of our country" (Sakartvelos Respublika, 1918d). Despite telling stories of battle, here is one important sentence which tells us that, Republic of Georgia, despite difficulties and enemies' attempt of sabotaging the state or belittles our values in the path of building democracy, it never deviated from its determined dissection to be honorable and uphold the law, never behaved inappropriately. Other media also shares the same beliefs and tactics. There are materials, full of patriotic spirit and excitement, for the first meeting of founder council (Sakartvelos Respublika, 1919).

After 1917 revolution, nations, living in Caucasus, gained independence. As you may well know, most of Caucasus was occupied by Russian Empire from the XIX century and to free from the clutches of the Empire was a great relief and the most important fact in their history. 4 states were established in Caucasus region: Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Mountainous Republic of the Northern Caucasus. Naturally, these countries' political orientation and foreign policies were not aligned all the time. However, they all had common enemy that made every effort to deprive them of the liberty, independence and integration with European countries. For Soviet Union, none of the fighting methods were acceptable. Let us discuss Georgia, for example: immediately after declaring independence, Russia instigated local separatists to start commotion in all places. Among those places were Shida Kartli, Tskhinvali and surrounding area of the city. The government had to take drastic measures to give aid to distressed population. We would like to present some materials for our readers, which demonstrate the situation after declaring independence. How the plot was laid and later executed. (How they gained the independence of South Ossetia, how they betrayed Republic of Georgia couple of times etc. let's review the media chronicles at that time.

The first significant text appeared as early as December 1917. The report on the Ossetian National Convention was made by A. Tibilov, whose main idea was to establish Ossetia as a joint administrative unit. The Ossetian-populated areas of Gori, Dusheti and Racha were

considered as included parts of the South Ossetia. During the convention, several main theses were identified:

1. To introduce the South Ossetian as a nationhood
2. The mountain lines of Racha, Gori and Dusheti regions, inhabited by Ossetians, should be divided as a separate territorial unit.
3. The nationhood must be elected with general, direct, secret and proportional rights.
4. The nationalhood should have the right of tax disposing.
5. To instruct the National Council to elaborate the nationalhood program in more detail and to start its implementation.

According to the report on the National Army made at the same congress, the need to compile the Ossetian National Army as a separate infantry unit was required. This unit should to be part of the Ossetian army in the North Caucasus and its location was determined in Gori or Dusheti (Sakartvelo, 1917).

The Ossetian convention considered it necessary to establish the Ossetian National Council, and in just a few days the Council's provision was submitted. Since this body has a highly questionable reputation and will appear as a co-author of many anti-state actions in the First Democratic Republic, we need to look through the articles of the provision, by which it was intending to enter public arena and carry out its activities. The provision includes 26 articles, namely:

1. The supreme power, before the Constituent Assembly establishes state order, belongs to the Ossetian National Convention and the National Council on the territory of Ossetia.
2. The Ossetian National Council is a) a legislative convention, b) the highest state power, supervisory and governing body.
3. They National Council has the right to supplement the resolutions of the National Assembly, to establish laws that do not contradict the resolutions of the National Assembly;
4. The Ossetian National Council is given the right to initiate legislation.
5. All legislative proposals must be considered by the National Council before submitting them to the National Assembly.
6. The Ossetian National Council establishes the governorship, the national army, controls all the existing agricultural institutions on the territory of Ossetia and directs their activities.
7. The region commissioner, the head of the public Militia or the head of the state bodies are appointed by the National Assembly.
8. The Assistant of the Commissioner and the Heads of State Bodies are elected by the Convention.
9. The Ossetian National Council is elected by the Ossetian people.
10. The National Council has a representative in Tbilisi to protect national interests ... (Sakartvelo, 1918e).

It seems that from the very beginning special attention was paid on the formation of the so-called Ossetian army. Opinion was divided into two parts (Sakartvelo, 1918f). Some supported the idea of creating a militia unit of at least a hundred horse cavalry, while others argued that a regular army was needed.

Official Tbilisi at the first stage considered the existence of the Ossetian National Council legal. However, due to the inadequate and reactionary nature revealed from the first days of its existence, a few days after its establishment, the so - called Ossetian Council receives the first warning. Tbilisi headquarter is ready to fulfill the Ossetian demand for an armed force, moreover, it is ready to provide them with clothes and weapons if the Ossetian National Council obeys the revolutionary bodies in Georgia.

It must be said that Georgian authorities attempted to neutralize the aggressive charge inflicted on the people caused by the thousands of provocative machinations planned by the Ossetian National Council planned. Representatives from the capital were often visiting Gori district, specifically Tskhinvali and its surroundings. Information meetings were being held. The speakers were addressing people in Georgian and Ossetian languages. They're explaining the legislative news, the country situation details in a language the people could understand. They called for order and peace.

There have always been many such meetings, especially after the tragic events of 1918 in Tskhinvali. For example, shortly after the March events, the first information rallies against various communities in Tskhinvali region were held on April 8. Representatives sent from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Peasants' Center: A. Parniev (Aleksandre (Sandro) Parniev – member of the General Staff in the National Army. During 1918 he was a member of the Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Georgia. And since March 12, 1919 a member of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Georgia), I. Bolkvadze and G. Margiev, the member of Gori Soc. Democrats, are trying to provide people with comprehensive information about the new land law passed by the Transcaucasian Seim. Receiving this information had caused great satisfaction among the people. Such informational meetings were held on April 8 and 9 for the communities living in Tamarasheni, Vanati, Ortevi and Tsunari.

Bolkvadze was addressing the people in Georgian language, and Parniev in Ossetian. There was a relative lack of attendees at the meetings, which was explained by fear caused by the events in Tskhinvali. The speakers were explaining to the people that similar military operations were aimed to protect civilians, neutralize the criminal elements and not to push people on ethnic grounds. It was enough to mention that during the same period, military operations of the Georgian Armed Forces were carried out against criminal groups: in Telavi, Kutaisi, Gori, Sadakhlo and other places where Ossetians were not living.

The gathered people on the one hand expressed their grief over the murder of G. Machabeli and S. Ketskhoveli, and on the other hand demanded release of the prisoners detained in Tskhinvali during the March events (Ertoba, 1918a).

On May 24, 1918, newspaper "Ertoba" reports that the Ossetian National Council has scheduled the third general national convention in Java for May 28. The North Ossetian National Council's representatives and one representative for every thousand inhabitants from Ossetians living on the territory of Georgia were invited to take part in the work of the convention. Among the issues to be considered are several major ones. In particular, the interdependence of the Transcaucasians and the Ossetians on the common political background, Tskhinvali tragedy of March 19 - 20, the causes and consequences, the possible reorganization of the National Council (Ertoba, 1918b) and so on.

According to the existing plan, the third meeting of the Transcaucasian Ossetian representatives was held on May 28 in the village - Java. Besides the Ossetian intelligentsia, about seventy people were attending the meeting, as well as delegates from the North Ossetian National Council, I. Ramishvili from the Social-Democratic Committee of the Transcaucasian Workers' Organizations, representatives of the Bolsheviks: F. Makharadze, G. Chkheidze, Akopiani and Sikharulidze.

I. Ramishvili opened the meeting with a welcome speech. M. Zorayev, the representative of the North Caucasus Ossetian National Council addressed the gathered public. On May 30, Ruten Gagloev made a report (on building a road from Tskhinvali to Zaramaga), also G. Gagloev (on the operation of the National Council), Al. Zasokhov (on the disintegration of the Ossetian regiment), Al. Tibilov (On Ossetian Schools). The Bolsheviks and the Socialist-Revolutionaries left the congress without a report.

Among the questions raised after I. Ramishvili's speech, the prevailing opinion was that Ossetians are independent from today and may not enter the Republic of Georgia. The authors of the questions could not get a positive respond from the speaker, in order to finally resolve the issue the meeting was scheduled on June 15 in the village Tsunari.

According to A. Parniev, the congregation did not look like the one invited to work. It was given the character of a political rally by some and prevented both the chairman and the delegates from doing their job (Parniev, 1918).

"Some people spread a thousand kinds of information among the Ossetians, saying: the Ossetians, Armenians and Russians are made to leave their places. Ossetians, Russians and Armenians united against the Georgians and who knows what else you will hear. That the enemies of democracy not to use all this and not to hand over Georgian democracy as a real fact, for that, I consider it is necessary to declare that Ossetian democracy will not follow the enemies of the people, will not believe what they say and will not go against its brotherly Georgian

democracy. Those who know the economic situation of the Ossetians, those who know the geographical conditions of the Ossetians and Georgians, those who know the political view of the Ossetians, all assure me that the Ossetians are not interested in weakening Georgian democracy. And if some people try to stir up water between these two nations, it should not be attributed to the Ossetians as a nation. The nation is not responsible for this or that irresponsible persons".

The newspaper "Sakartvelo" also responded to the third congress of the Ossetians (Sakartvelo, 1918g). The editorial once again underlined the statement made by I. Ramishvili on the restoration of statehood and independence of Georgia. The reporter hoped that the Ossetian people would not follow the counter-revolutionaries and would support Georgia's young democratic republic.

The date of the next meeting was June 15. The following main issues were indicated on this meeting:

1. Is the independence of Ossetians possible within the territory of Georgia and who should request for it?
2. The Ossetian intelligentsia's job in the past and today;
3. About the Ossetian Regiment;
4. The issue of railway construction from Tskhinvali to Zaramaga;
5. About Tskhinvali news;
6. What should the Ossetian National Council do?
7. On the Union of the North Ossetians and Transcaucasians.

During the third convention of the Ossetians in Java, an aggressive, one might say hostile attitude towards Georgia was evident. I. Ramishvili's speech seemed to change the mood of the convention's participants, people seemed to realize that they were mistaken, deceived and misguided, but the main issues, including the internal political arrangement of the Ossetian-populated areas, remained open. As soon as this decision was made, new propagandas were launched by separatist agitated groups and their instigators to create an appropriate reactionary atmosphere for the next convention (Ertoba, 1918c).

In such an atmosphere, the fourth Ossetian convention was opened in the village Tsunari on June 15th. The convention opened at five o'clock in the evening. A. Parniev petitioned the congress, to schedule the main discussion issues for the next day. Representatives from Tbilisi had not yet arrived in Tsunari, and Parniev considered it fairer to discuss these issues in their presence. The convention rejected the motion.

On the next day at 11 o'clock Ir. Tsereteli, Vl. Mgeladze and Vl. Voitinsky joined the convention from Tskhinvali.

Although most of the convention participants knew Georgian well, they even wanted to speak Georgian, but the chairman of the convention reminded them that the working language was Russian, which would later be translated into Ossetian. An abbreviated version of the speech was then translated into Ossetian and thus

delivered to the audience. Later, the chairman of the Socialist-Revolutionaries regional committee addressed the convention members. He declared the Mensheviks traitors and called on "revolutionary Ossetia" to move north. A short speech was given by journalist Voitinsky. The meeting ended with Ir. Tsereteli's report.

Three resolutions were adopted at the Fourth Ossetian Convention on June 15-16, with the following content:

1. Recognizing that, due to the current situation, declaring Georgia as an independent republic was the only way to save the democracy within the borders of Georgia, The Convention recognizes any speech against the Government of the Georgian Republic as ruinous, and elects a commission, which is responsible for developing a self-government project for the region of the Republic of Georgia where Ossetians live.
2. The Fourth Convention of South Ossetian Delegates, after hearing Tsereteli's report on the current situation, decided: The issue of self-determination of the South Ossetian people should be postponed for the next convention, which will be held in six weeks with more members. Request the Government of the Republic of Georgia to leave the issue open during the drafting of the Constitution.
3. The third resolution called for the entry of Ossetia into the Republic of Georgia as an autonomous entity.

The plans and attitudes of some Ossetians towards the host country is clear in the cited text. The proclamation of the newspaper "Ertoba" was exactly due this fact: "It is necessary today to take appropriate measures against those who undermine the young republic lead by a revolutionary democracy; those who silently, secretly attack and try to deliver a death blow to it. There can be no delay no hesitation!".

The results of the work the fourth congress, made the newspaper "Sakartvelo" pessimistic. According to it, the situation in South Ossetia is very troubling. The editorial board does not eliminate that for the next meeting scheduled for six weeks later, the government will send V. Jugheli instead of eloquence orators. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Ossetia has not yet handed over weapons, while part of the Georgian population has completed this process a long time ago. This circumstance makes it entirely legitimate to assume that events will occur in an even more tragic scenario than it has already happened (Sakartvelo, 1918h).

In general, the newspaper "Sakartvelo" systematically provides readers with the information of the national threats that Georgia faces. Very often these threats are related to the national minorities living in the territory of Georgia. This is about Borchalo district, the region of Abkhazia and, of course, Shida Kartli, where the North Ossetians join the part of Ossetians suffering from Bolshevism.

"The whole Georgia has become a battlefield and a flame of anarchy has spread to our country from edge to edge.

Newly reestablished Georgia is in terrible danger and we will become participants of the greatest national calamity if we fail to mobilize manpower and avoid the national ordeal" (Erovnuli Saprtkhe, 1918a).

Concerning the Fifth Ossetian Convention scheduled for six weeks later, it was held in the village Java on August 5 (Ertoba, 1918d). According to the correspondent of the newspaper "Ertoba" (under the pseudonym "Gogia") (There were two people working under the pseudonym "Gogia": A) Giorgi Chkheidze / Giorgi Kuchishvili (1886-1947) - writer, poet. B) Grigol Nutsbidze (1882-1961) - Honored (1932) and Public (1955) Artist of Georgia). It was widely known that during this six-week period the Ossetian National Council tried to organize uprising, hoping for help from the North Caucasus. And so it happened. It was time then uprising spread to Sachkhere region and Dusheti district. The position of newspaper "Ertoba" towards the Ossetian people is unchanged: the Ossetian uprising is not a popular uprising, but it is a New Bolshevism aimed to join with Russia (Ertoba, 1918e).

An interesting report on the North Caucasus was made by P. Tedeev (Ertoba, 1918f). He was elected as a delegate to North Ossetia at Tsunari Convention. He was instructed to get acquainted with the situation there and with the locals' views on South Ossetia.

P. Tedeev presented a proposal according to which Ossetians enter the Democratic Republic of Georgia and demand broad territorial self-government for Ossetians living together, and cultural autonomy for the Ossetians who are scattered on the territory of Georgia. The Ossetian National Council was tasked with drafting a statute for self-government and presenting it to the government and the Sixth National Convention of Ossetians. The proposal was passed by a vote of 55 to 2.

The issue of disarmament still was left open.

A. Tibilov reported on the council's activities and on the need to elect a new council (Ertoba, 1918g).

The discussion focused on the participation of I. Kharebov's armed detachment in Ossetians uprisings of Sachkhere. According to the facts provided by the speaker, only Ossetians living in Racha - Shorapani were involved in the uprisings, and neither the Ossetians living in Java nor any other region had taken part in it. According to the council, the situation was getting more complicated by the fact that most of the insurgents were armed robbers who did not trust anyone. They were burning and robbing civilians. The situation was similar in Dusheti district. There is not any ideological character in these revolts.

After the fifth convention, G. Gagloev made a report on the meeting of the Social Democrat faction, in the capital, where he once again summarized the results of the convention work and assessed the current situation in Tskhinvali region (Ertoba, 1918h).

In another publication, the newspaper Ertoba once again emphasizes that despite the great desire of the Ossetian nationalists to involve the whole Ossetian people in

armed demonstrations and carry out the repressive policy throughout the nation, ended in failure. The Georgian government was fighting not with the Ossetian people, but with anti-state-minded insurgents, armed individuals, as well as insurgents of other nationalities. The implementation of the land law, removing weapons from the population, the establishment of a fair court remained the most important problems.

Georgia was protecting and was ready again to protect interests of the Ossetian democracy. The Ossetian Nationalists were defeated: their provocation network failed, but this does not mean that the Ossetian issue was finally resolved.

The first meeting series of 1918 is crowned by a report on Ossetian National Council meetings, published in the newspaper "Sakartvelos Respublika" in November. M. Klimiashvili, Member of the Parliament of Georgia, was attending these meetings in Tskhinvali as a representative from the capital, who after finishing the work presented a report to the Minister of Internal Affairs. The issues discussed during the meeting are similar to above mentioned meeting agendas. Fight against robbery, removing weapons from the population, issue of separating Ossetia, the existence of armed forces, construction of a road to the North Caucasus in Java, the need to establish schools and etc. are still highlighted (Sakartvelos Respublika, 1918d).

The Russian threat to the Caucasus has always been a significant obstacle for the development of Georgia and for its integration into the European family. The constant inspiration for territorial conflicts in the Caucasus, including Georgia, was an integral part of the methodology of relations between Tsarist Russia and later Soviet Russia with other nations. Such an approach was destroying the unified Caucasian platform and was making it more and more distant to become a member of Western civilization. Georgia was stubbornly pursuing the cherished goal. Many successful steps had been taken on the road full of difficulties. The greatest success on the road to Georgia's independence was the election of the Catholicos Patriarch of Georgia in September 1917 and the approval of Kirion II (Sadzaglishvili) on the patriarch's throne. After that, as never before, there were all conditions for the country to gain independence.

In such a situation, at the Rubicon of Georgia's independence, Kote Abkhazi (Kote Abkhazi (1867-1923) - Major-General of the National Army Artillery of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, Commander of the Nobles of Kartli-Kakheti (Marshal). Was elected as a Member of the National Council of Georgia), a national figure devoted to our country, wrote: "Maybe this war or revolution will give us complete freedom and let us breathe freely" (Saitidze, 1997).

Unfortunately, free breathing was too short. Spiridon Kedia (Spiridon Kedia (1884-1948) - In February 1919 he was elected in the Constituent Assembly of Georgia from the National-Democratic Party), who emigrated after the Sovietization of Georgia, wrote to Grigol

Veshapeli from Istanbul on May 1, 1923: "Dear brother Grigol, one or two hours before I received your letter, yesterday, May 31, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, one Georgian passing through Istanbul handed me the newspaper "Communist" (The newspaper "Communist" (1921) - a daily periodical of the Communist Party Central Committee and the body of the Revolutionary Committee of Georgia. It was published in Tbilisi. Published by the Editorial Board) from the ship, Where is told a black story of our best friend shooting.

They overthrew and beheaded Kote Abkhazi!.. They shot General Andronikashvili, a rare person, a heroic rider, a very educated and wise general. They shot General Varden Tsulukidze. Knight. Fearless warrior. Patriot. They shot Rostom Muskhelishvili. Colonel, Patriot, Wise, Great Worker, worked with us.

They were shot ... " (Materials from the personal archive of Spiridon Kedia (edited by Al. Noneshvili), (2007), (Letter of Spiridon Kedia to Grigol Veshapeli, 1.VI.23), Tbilisi) (Materials from Spiridon Kedia's personal archive, 2007, 1.VI.23); In 1921, after the occupation of Georgia by Soviet Russia, another completely different era had begun in the country.

#### **4. Conclusion**

In the current paper, we analyze the details related to the event of May 26, 1918, adoption of the Act of Independence, which established the Democratic Republic of Georgia by the National Council, has been the most significant event in Georgia's history. The First World War crisis and 1917 revolution incited nations, occupied by empire, to restore sovereignty. Georgia was one among these few. Georgia was declared as independent republic, governed by the national council, and soon after, most of European countries recognized its independence.

Despite its short run, the first democratic republic had a fundamental impact on the history of Georgia. It was the only country from South Caucasus, where the red army failed to seize the power without fierce opposition. Georgians' relentless resistance was fed by anti-Bolshevik attitude. Democratic, humanistic course, equality in development and striving to build democratic country, ethnic tolerance and acceptance of European values were reflected in the act of independence and late, in the constitution.

Although Georgian government always tried to respectfully apply status of minor ethnic group - Ossetians within the legal and state framework, unfortunately state could not always manage it. Generally, Ossetians, migrated to Georgia, had never have ethno- political or ethno-territorial entity before socialization. "South Ossetia" as a concept of Ossetian settlement in mountainous Shida Kartli was fabricated over period of time after Russian Empire had annexed Georgian Kingdom. The idea was unjustified and unacceptable but well - designed and profitable for the Russian Empire. Ossetian separatism had revealed its

nature from the very first day of Georgian independence. Deep-rooted Russian threat towards the Caucasus has always endangered integration of Georgia within European family. Constant and unquenched desire to stir up conflicts in Georgia, among Caucasus countries, was generated in Russian Empire and later was successfully and methodologically inherited by Soviet Russia.

### Author Contributions

All tasks were done by the single author who reviewed and approved the manuscript.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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