

Principal author's name: SERİFE KURSUN

e-mail address: serifikursun@hotmail.com

Title of the abstract: A Study on Nursing Students' Ethical Position

Topic that best corresponds to the abstract: Ethical and practical concerns within nursing and healthcare teaching

Summary

Objective: This study was conducted to determine the factors affecting ethics position of nursing students receiving undergraduate education.

Method: This descriptive-relational study was conducted between January 3 and 15, 2012 on 331 students attending the department of nursing at the faculty of health sciences. To collect the research data, "Student Identification Form" was used to determine students' characteristics and "Ethical Position Questionnaire" was used to assess their ethical approaches and judgments. Chi-square, t test and variance analysis were used in the evaluation of the data.

Findings: It was found that students got an average of 37.80 ± 4.8 (min:22.0, max:45.0) points from the idealism sub-dimension of the scale, and an average of 33.9 ± 6.3 (min:14.0, max:50.0) points from the relativism sub-dimension. A correlation was found that between the year of education, post-graduate education planning and having a hobby and their ethical states ($p < 0.05$). The scores of the senior students were lower in comparison with other groups in terms of the average relativism score while the scores of the students who wanted to get a new profession were higher than those of the students who did not this. As far as idealism was concerned, the scores of the students who planned to have post-graduate education were higher than those who did not, and likewise students who did not have a hobby had higher scores than those who did. According to the level of ethical judgment, 23.3% of the students were exceptionism ($n=77$), 20.2 % were subjectivism ($n=67$), 34.1% were situationism ($n=113$), and 22.4% were absolutism ($n=74$). The exceptionism group consisted predominantly of the 4th year students whereas the subjectivist group consisted mainly of the 2nd year students and the absolutist group included mostly the first year students. It was found that 1st and 2nd year students were represented at the same percentage in the

situationism group whereas 4th year students had the lowest percentage in this group. Students who planned to have post-graduate education were situationism and absolutism at higher percentages while students who had hobbies were predominantly subjectivism.

Conclusion: It was found that some characteristics of students affected their ethical states. It could be recommended that the topic of ethics be integrated into the courses and clinical practices during the nursing education in order to ensure that students make their decisions in accordance with ethical values.

Keywords: Ethics position, nursing, student

A short biography of the author: My name is Serife Kursun. I was born on 24th September 1977. I graduated İstanbul University Florence Nightingale Nursing School in 1998. After I graduated, I worked as a nursing for two years in general surgery at a university hospital. After I started to work as a research assistant Selcuk University Health High School. I completed master's degree in surgical nursing in 2004, my doctoral degree in same department in 2010. Now I would continue to work assistant professor in the nursing department at Selcuk University, Faculty of Health Sciences.