

## Research article

**The effect of the level of the undergraduate nursing students toward the elderly****Neslihan LOK, Humeyra GUL, Esma SAKINMAZ, Mustafa KESKIN, Yener SISEK Seyma AYDIN**

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**Abstract**

**Objective:** Competences provided nursing education students, also affects their approach and sensitivity for the elderly, a special group. The effect of attitudes towards older students' level therefore the nursing research and education at the undergraduate level were investigated. **Materials and methods:** The study descriptive relational type, formed the study sample Mediterranean University studying in the first and last class of 371 nursing students. Data, "Socio-Demographic Information Form" and "Attitude Scale for the Elderly" were collected using in the classroom. Number of percentage distributions for the evaluation of data and Mann-Whitney U and Kruskal-Wallis test was used. **Results:** The mean age of  $20.06 \pm 2.15$  students who agreed to participate in the study, 67.9% of girls and 66.3% of first class, grew up in a nuclear family, 76.3%, 41.5% of the longest in the Mediterranean region, 42.6% lived in the city for a long time and lived in the same house with a period of life of older individuals was 64.4%. First of classes in the field of education for the elderly attitude scale mean score  $142.67 \pm 7.34$ , while the last class in the field of education for the elderly attitude scale is the average score of  $176.58 \pm 6.46$  difference was statistically significant ( $p = 0.016$ ). **Conclusion:** In this study, the nursing education at the undergraduate level, students have seen a positive impact on their attitudes toward the elderly. The girl is in terms of variables, those living in extended families, who spend a large part of his life in East and South East Anatolia, after those who lived through any period of elderly life and graduation attitudes towards older people who want to work with the elderly are affected positively.

**Keywords:** Nursing education, geriatric nursing, elderly

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**1. Introduction**

The elderly population that shows in all countries of the world are on their plans for the aged rapid growth and elderly health of each country requires the review [1]. Along with the rapid increase in the elderly population in the last century, the provision of health services has changed dramatically. Changing and evolving health care system, the basic health needs of people, and therefore also affect the nursing education [2]. Very rapid growth of the world population also increases the demand for health services. A discipline of nursing care is an important member of the health care team that provides health services provided to the elderly [3]. The nurses provide quality care for the

elderly based on that requirement, developing positive attitudes and behavior as equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills for elderly care is required [4].

Nursing education provides students with a multi-dimensional and gives different perspectives. Information gathered from non-nursing disciplines (eg. philosophy, the arts, theater, music, pictures), sociology, anthropology, physics, and mathematics), the professional nurse; development of personal competences, making the logical choice, thoughts contributes to the development of effective and comfortable expressing ability [5]. The BSc degree nursing education information which is indispensable for nurses, gives

professional values and professional behavior. Thereby affect the attitude towards the group of nurses provide health care in a positive direction, critical thinking, decision-making, diagnostic and evaluation can strengthen the topic [4]. Nurses who have Bachelor's degree in nursing, the protection of patient privacy, positive attitudes and sensitive care to Provided care by nurses, the privacy of providers and health care, patient safety and care as sensitive to the patient's individual needs are with planning principles [1]. One of the target groups that provide care nurses are also elderly. Targeting the elderly in nursing care, basic nursing knowledge and skills should be integrated with knowledge and practice for the different and diverse needs of the elderly population [6].

Competences provided nursing education students, also affects their approach and sensitivity for the elderly, a special group [7]. Elderly nursing students are required to demonstrate a positive attitude while maintenance. Should have adequate knowledge about old age, but it is important from this perspective, nursing education programs and nursing education institutions are positive attitudes towards aging and can play an important role in the development of nursing students [8]. Because attitudes are shaped by the social environment first, and later it is subject to change on a personal level based on the information [9]. We think it would be graduating from secondary education level difference between the attitude of the senior students to complete the nursing education levels and attitudes towards older students who placed in the first class. Thus began a new graduate-level nursing education in the work of the senior students with first-year students to complete the training aimed to compare their attitudes levels for the elderly. The following questions have been created for this purpose.

### Research questions

1. Nursing education has begun to take new freshmen nursing education levels and attitudes towards elderly people of the area four years. Is there a relationship between the

attitude level of fourth-grade students for the elderly?

2. Is there any relationship between socio-demographic characteristics of freshman nursing students and the attitudes towards the elderly?
3. Is there any relationship between socio-demographic characteristics of four years nursing students and the attitudes towards the elderly?

### 2. Material and methods

Research is planned in a relational descriptor type. Research was conducted at Akdeniz University Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing. The research population Akdeniz University Faculty of Nursing will be the first and Antalya School of Health Sciences studying in fourth grade of 387 nursing students. Research also tried to reach the entire universe without going to the sampling and a total of 371 nursing students were included in to reach to whole population

Inclusion criteria's for the student are; agrees to participate in the study, agreement to participate to the study and identification of studying in the nursing as aa first and fourth grade. Independent variables of the study are; gender, age, class, graduated high school, family type, the longest living place, after living situation and graduated with the elderly do not want to live with the elderly, the dependent variable is defined as the attitude level for the elderly.

### Data collection tools

The collection of data; students' socio-demographic information form prepared by researches and "Attitude Scale for the Elderly" scale was used to evaluate the attitudes towards the elderly of students. Before starting to collect data in order to evaluate the intelligibility of the question, the pilot study had been done to three nursing students. Students' who were included in pilot study, data's were not included in the study.

### Attitude scale for the elderly

Developed in 1961 by Kogan Attitudes Toward Old People Scale "COP", is an established scale to

measure individuals' attitudes towards aging. This scale was applied to health care professionals to determine the attitude of society towards the elderly. Social and medical jargon-free 6-point Likert-type scale. The scale consisted of 34 items; 17 positive, and 17 negative expressions. Provincial 1-17 questions from negative expression between 18-34 questions include the positive expression. Negative statements due to the structure of the scale from right to left 6 5 4 3 2 1, the positive expressions; is scored from left to right 1 2 3 4 5 6 form. The scores are summed to obtain a total score of all substances. The scale score range is between 34-204 points. High scores indicate a positive attitude and low scores indicates a negative attitude. Turkish validity and reliability study of the scale and Gelbal hear [10] by. Cronbach's alpha reliability value for a positive attitude subscale 0.789 for the negative attitude to all subscales of Attitudes towards the elderly is calculated as 0.794 and 0.840.

### Data collection

The data for this study were collected from Antalya Akdeniz University Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing students. After obtaining institutional permits the implementation of the research will be initiated. Data in the classroom were collected with questionnaires by the investigator. A necessary explanation was made orally before the beginning of the questionnaires.

### Evaluation of data

Research data was evaluated using SPSS 17.0 the statistical package program. After the data collection, whole data's was entered into the SPSS program by researchers into the scale located in noted options was calculated for each item and total scores of students from the scale. A number and percentage distribution for the evaluation of data, Mann-Whitney U and Kruskal-Wallis test was used. Results were evaluated at 95% confidence interval and  $p < 0.05$  significance level.

### 3. Results

The average age of students who agreed to participate in the study was  $20.6 \pm 2.15$ , 67.9% female, 66.3% for first class, grew up in a

nuclear family, 42.6% of the longest in the city lived and lived in the same house with a period of elderly life was 64.4%. A majority of the students (90%) that participate in an activity related to aging and after graduation while 67.9% stated that they wanted to work with elderly individuals (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Distribution of socio-demographic data of the students (n = 371)

Variable	n	%
<i>Sex</i>		
Female	252	67.9
Male	119	32.1
<i>Class</i>		
1st year	246	66.3
4th year	125	33.7
<i>Graduated high school</i>		
High school, Anatolian and Science High School	361	97.3
Health Vocational High School	10	2.7
<i>Family type for longest duration</i>		
Nuclear family	283	76.3
Extended family	64	17.3
Broken families	24	6.5
<i>The longest place of residence</i>		
Villages, towns	89	24.0
County	124	33.4
City	158	42.6
<i>Living in the same household with an elderly family status biggest</i>		
Yes	239	64.4
No	132	35.6
<i>Participation in any activity related to old age</i>		
No, I participate.	334	90.0
Seminars, congresses conference etc.	29	7.8
I got involved in the project	8	2.2
<i>After graduating, individuals wanting to work with elderly</i>		
Yes	253	68.2
No	118	31.8

Attitude scale for the elderly mean score was  $142.67 \pm 7.34$  was for last year in education, while last year in the field of education for the elderly attitude scale mean score of  $176.58 \pm$  is 6:46 difference was statistically significant ( $p = 0.016$ ). In addition, those in the female gender, living in broken families, the longest place of residence village and towns, living with elderly grandparents in the same home living a period of his life, and graduation for seniors who want to work with the elderly higher attitude scale mean scores was higher and statistically significant (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Comparison of the Attitudes of Students to Elderly points by Descriptive Characteristics (n = 371)

Variables	Mean±SD	Test value, p
<i>Class</i>		
1st class	142.67±7.34	U=11.750 p=0.016*
4th year	176.58±6.46	
<i>Sex</i>		
Girl	165.24±7.36	U=10.500 p=0.001*
Male	150.18±5.68	
<i>Most long-lived family type</i>		
Nuclear family	153.68±2.45	KW= 4.067 p=0.042*
Extended family	169.46±2.34	
Broken families	173.78±3.67	
<i>The longest place of residence</i>		
Villages, towns	172.23±4.32	KW= 1.448 p=0.036*
County	158.18±3.75	
City	145.62±5.74	
<i>The same old family home with large living situations</i>		
Yes	185.32±6.41	U=8.250 p=0.001*
No	153.64±7.52	
<i>Want to work after graduation with elderly individuals</i>		
Yes	198.46±2.43	U=6.750 p=0.016*
No	135.74±6.31	

p&lt;0.05

#### 4. Discussion

Nursing education provides students with a multi-education and gives different perspectives. Information gathered from non-nursing disciplines (eg philosophy, the arts (theater, music, pictures), sociology, anthropology, physics, and mathematics), the professional nurse; development of personal competences, making the logical choice, thoughts contributes to the development of effective and comfortable expressing ability [5].

Attitude scale for the elderly according to the sociodemographic characteristics of the students in our study there were significant differences between the mean scores ( $p < 0.05$ ). In particular, differences were found according to the class. In studies in the literature on the subject has shown that similar results with our study findings [11,12].

Compared to men the female students in our research have more positive attitudes towards

the elderly and it was observed that the difference is significant. Pan et al. [13] Wang et al. [14] findings are similar with our findings that female students have more positive attitudes towards older people than men students. When scores of attitude towards the elderly according to the study of students living in family-type living in broken families, compared to those living in the core and extended family were found to be more positive attitudes toward the elderly. Similarly Lovell [15] and Lopez [16] the study findings were similar to the findings of our study. The attitude scale for the students of the old villages and towns where they live for a long time that students living in towns and cities, the difference are higher than the average score was found statistically significant. Older families living in the same home life with a period of great and after graduation for those who want to work with the elderly have higher mean scores of attitude scale for the elderly is the difference was statistically significant. Studies similar to our findings in Blegen et al. [3], Li and Shen [5] and Adibelli et al. [8] were similar to the results of the study.

#### Conclusion

As a result of the study, the nursing education at the undergraduate level, students have seen a positive impact on their attitudes toward the elderly. The girl is in terms of variables, those living in extended families, which spend a large part of his life in East and South East Anatolia, after those who lived through any period of elderly people and whose wants to work with elderly after graduation attitudes were affected positively. Students in terms of increase in more positive attitudes towards the elderly, students creation of more together they may and care provided can practice field with the elderly, it is important for the development of knowledge and skills related to elderly care. As a suggestion; students in terms of developing positive attitudes towards aging, aging in nursing education and more space given to the concepts of health and aged "geriatric nursing" courses can be said that the important contribution for the curriculum.

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