

ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ / RESEARCH ARTICLE

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**AWARENESS LEVEL OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN THE COVID-19
PROCESS: A RESEARCH ON FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH
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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to contribute to the literature by analyzing the educational needs during pandemic and crisis periods. Primary data are collected through a questionnaire applied to 1014 students in the departments of nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy and rehabilitation, nutrition and dietetics and child development affiliated to the faculties of medicine and health sciences faculties in Istanbul. Chi-square test was applied to determine whether there was a significant statistical difference between the groups. A statistically significant difference is found as a result of the analyzes made between the groups having the test and the descriptive characteristics. It has been determined that 409 students, who make up 40.34% of the sample, did not receive any training on the COVID-19 pandemic before the start of the internship, and they stated that they wanted to receive Pandemic-related crisis management training. This situation reveals the educational need of the students, and it is recommended to organize trainings on information about the epidemic, effective coping methods and crisis management in epidemics to reduce the anxiety of the students.

Keywords: COVID-19 , Crisis Mangement, Health literacy, Risk Management, Covid-19 Vaccine**Jel Codes:** C10, C12, I10, I12.**COVID-19 SÜRECİNDE ÜNİVERSİTE ÖĞRENCİLERİNİN FARKINDALIK DÜZEYİ : TIP
FAKÜLTESİ VE SAĞLIK BİLİMLERİ FAKÜLTESİ ÖĞRENCİLERİ ÜZERİNE BİR
ARAŞTIRMA****ÖZ**

Bu çalışmanın amacı, öğrencilerin ne tür risklerle karşı karşıya olduklarını belirlemek, enfeksiyon olasılığını azaltmaya yönelik politikalar geliştirmek, pandemi ve kriz dönemlerinde eğitim ihtiyaçlarını analiz ederek literatüre katkıda bulunmaktır. Birincil veriler, İstanbul'da bulunan tıp ve sağlık bilimleri fakültelerine bağlı hemşirelik, ebelik, fizyoterapi ve rehabilitasyon, beslenme ve diyetetik ile çocuk gelişimi bölümlerinde okuyan 1014 öğrenciye uygulanan anket yoluyla toplanmıştır. Gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark olup olmadığını belirlemek için ki-kare testi uygulanmıştır. Test ve tanımlayıcı özelliklere sahip gruplar arasında yapılan analizler sonucunda istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark bulunmuştur. Örneklemin %40,34'ünü oluşturan 409 öğrencinin staj başlamadan önce COVID-19 pandemisi ile ilgili herhangi bir eğitim almadığı ve Pandemi ile ilgili kriz yönetimi eğitimi almak istediklerini belirttikleri belirlendi. Bu durum öğrencilerin eğitim ihtiyacını ortaya koymakta olup, öğrencilerin kaygılarını azaltmak için salgın hakkında bilgilendirme, etkili baş etme yöntemleri ve salgın hastalıklarda kriz yönetimi konularında eğitimler düzenlenmesi önerilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Salgın, COVID-19, Kriz Yönetimi, Risk Yönetimi, Covid-19 Aşısı**Jel Kodları:** C10, C12, I10, I12.**Geliş Tarihi/Received:** 01.02.2023**Kabul Tarihi/Accepted:** 22.06.2023**Yayın Tarihi/Printed Date:** 30.06.2023

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INTRODUCTION

The Coronavirus (COVID-19), which affected the whole world, emerged in 2019 in Wuhan, China. The coronavirus (COVID-19s) is transmitted by breathing and contact and can be fatal. The rate of spread of the virus has gradually increased due to the lack of timely measures in the first days of the epidemic and the ongoing global human mobility. Among the people most affected by COVID-19 are healthcare workers, people over the age of 60 and those with chronic conditions. COVID-19 spread around the world in a short time and was declared a global epidemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020. (T.R. Ministry of Health, 2020)

During the Covid-19 process, practical training in the field of health is carried out in cooperation with the Council of Higher Education and the Ministry of Health. The Council of Higher Education (YÖK) takes decisions regarding practical training and announces its decisions and recommendations to universities and the public.

Despite the suspension of applied training in many fields during the COVID-19 epidemic in Turkey, it has been observed that some of the university students continue their applied training in public health facilities in line with the decisions taken by the Council of Higher Education and universities.

It is thought that students who do practical education in health institutions are among the groups that are most affected by COVID-19 and because they are carriers (<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/mrc-global-infectious-disease-analysis/covid-19/report-42-sars-cov-2-variant/>). They both face the risk of being infected by contact with the patient and are in the risk group because they can be carriers.

In line with explanations provided above, students who received practical training in the field of health during the epidemic are considered as crucial that may play a critical role to manage spreading of pandemic. Due to the number of studies about COVID-19 pandemic awareness is not adequate, this study was conducted on 1014 university students who received practical training in the field of health in public health facilities affiliated to a Provincial Health Directorate during the pandemic period. It has been tried to contribute to the literature by analyzing health literacy levels, education needs in pandemic and crisis periods faced by university students doing practical education in the field of health.

In the second part, the methodology applied in the study is explained, and in the third part, the test results and analysis findings are examined. In the last part of the study, the results of the analysis were discussed and general evaluations and suggestions were provided.

1. Methodology

The population of the study consists of undergraduate students studying in the field of health in a province and doing internship and applied education in public health institutions affiliated to İstanbul provincial health directorate.

The sample of the study consists of a total of 1014 university students who volunteered to participate in the research, which can be reached, who are studying in undergraduate programs in the field of health in public health facilities affiliated to a provincial health directorate during the pandemic process. Only university students were included in the study. The data of the study were collected between February 10, 2021 and March 10, 2021. Data collection was applied as an online questionnaire.

In this study, the improbable sampling method was used because the chance of all members of the universe to participate in the research is not equal.

The data collection form consists of 24 questions about demographic information such as age, gender, class, education level of the students, their education about COVID-19 before the internship, and their thoughts about the vaccine. Statistical Analysis: SPSS 22.0 was used for

Data Analysis. In the analysis of the obtained data; Frequency, Chi-Square (Chi Square) is used. Statistical significance level was accepted as $p < 0.05$.

Before the data were collected, permission was obtained from the Ministry of Health (2021-01-06T20_48_18) and the Yeni Yüzyıl University Ethics Committee for the study (Date: 01.02.2021 No: 2021/02-620).

2. Findings

All of the participants in the research are in the age group defined as Z-Generation. 17.16% of the participants are male and 82.84% are female. When the participants who responded to the study were examined in terms of their risk, 10.06% (n:102) stated that they had a chronic disease. The findings regarding the demographic characteristics of the participants are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the participants

Variable	Category	N	(%)
Age	17-20	180	17,7
	21-23	711	70,12
	24 and above	123	12,13
Gender	Male	174	17,16
	Female	840	82,84
Do You Have Any Chronic Disease?	Yes	102	10,06
	No	912	89,94
	Total	1014	100,00

Table 2. Breakdown of internships by University Type

Variable	Category	N	(%)
University Type	Public	248	24,46
	Foundation	766	75,54
	Toplam	1014	100,00

Table 3. Class of participants

Variable	Category	N	(%)
Class	1	46	4,54
	2	179	17,65
	3	149	14,69
	4	555	54,73
	5	39	3,85
	6	46	4,54
	Total	1014	100,00

Of the 1014 participants included in the study, 54.73% were 4th grade students and 14.69% were 3rd grade students. The majority of the sample consists of 3rd and 4th grade students. The share of 5th grade students is the lowest with 3.85%. This is because they are medical school students.

Table 4. Findings Regarding on Covid-19 Risk Management and Awareness of Participants

	YES		NO	
	N	%	N	%
Did you attend any training on the covid-19 pandemic before the start of the internship?	409	40,34	605	59,66
Have you been tested for COVID-19?	456	44,97	558	55,03
Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19?	133	13,12	881	86,88
Have you been reported as a contact during the pandemic period and went through the isolation process?	249	24,56	765	75,44
Have you had a COVID-19 patient in the health institution where you did your internship?	625	61,64	389	38,36

Are you considering getting a COVID-19 vaccine?	587	57,89	427	42,11
Did you directly serve a COVID-19 patient?	181	17,85	833	82,15
Have you had face-to-face (1 meter distance) contact with a COVID-19 patient?	339	33,43	675	66,57
Would you like to receive crisis management training about pandemic periods?	710	70,02	304	29,98

All students included in the sample have provided answers. Of the 1014 students included in the study, 59.66% had not attended any training on the COVID-19 pandemic before, 55.03% had not had a COVID-19 test, 13.12% had been diagnosed with COVID-19, and 24% ,56 of them were reported as contacts and went through the isolation process. 57.89% of the participants stated that they wanted to be vaccinated against COVID-19. 70.02% of the participants stated that they wanted to receive crisis management training related to the pandemic periods due to the processes they were exposed to.

3. Analysis Results and Discussion

Chi-square tests were applied to determine the statistically significant difference between demographic characteristics according to the status of willingness to be vaccinated. Test results are given in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Analysis of Willingness to be vaccinated in terms of Demographic Variables

Variables		Asking for a Vaccine		Not Asking for a Vaccine		p-Val
Age	17-20	102	2,57%	78	2,50%	0,11
	21-23	403	10,14%	308	9,87%	
	24 and Above	82	2,06%	41	1,31%	
Gender	Male	130	3,27%	44	1,41%	<0.001
	Female	457	11,49%	383	12,28%	
Do You Have Any Chronic Disease?	Yes	54	1,36%	48	1,54%	0,286
	No	533	13,41%	379	12,15%	
University Type	Public	186	4,68%	62	1,99%	<0.001
	Foundation	401	10,09%	365	11,70%	
Class	1	21	0,53%	25	0,80%	<0.001
	2	101	2,54%	78	2,50%	
	3	116	2,92%	33	1,06%	
	4	290	7,29%	265	8,49%	
	5	30	0,75%	9	0,29%	
	6	29	0,73%	17	0,54%	
Number of Internship Days During the Pandemic Process	1.Ağu	230	5,78%	127	4,07%	<0.001
	Eyl.16	83	2,09%	66	2,12%	
	17-30	131	3,29%	115	3,69%	
	31-50	107	2,69%	95	3,04%	
	51-70	36	0,91%	24	0,77%	
Department	Nutrition and Dietetics	59	1,48%	91	2,92%	<0.001
	Midwifery	173	4,35%	92	2,95%	
	Physical therapy and rehabilitation	48	1,21%	68	2,18%	
	Nursing	120	3,02%	237	7,60%	
	Medical Faculty	54	1,36%	70	2,24%	

According to the chi-square analyzes carried out to determine whether the participants' willingness to be vaccinated differs according to their socio-demographic characteristics; A statistically significant difference was found between the groups according to gender, university type, class, number of days of internship during the pandemic and the department of education.

Chi-square tests were applied to determine the statistically significant difference between descriptive characteristics according to the status of willingness to be vaccinated. Test results are given in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Analysis of Willingness to be vaccinated in Terms of Descriptive Characteristics

Variables		Asking for a Vaccine		Not Asking for a Vaccine		p-Val
Did you attend any training on the covid-19 pandemic before the start of the internship?	Yes	255	6,21%	154	5,15%	<0.001
Have you been tested for COVID-19?	No	332	8,08%	273	9,13%	
Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19?	Yes	75	1,83%	58	1,94%	0,707
Have you been reported as a contact during the pandemic period and went through the isolation process?	No	512	12,46%	369	12,35%	
Have you had a COVID-19 patient in the health institution where you did your internship?	Yes	140	3,41%	109	3,65%	0,54
Are you considering getting a COVID-19 vaccine?	No	447	10,88%	318	10,64%	
Did you directly serve a COVID-19 patient?	Yes	346	8,42%	279	9,33%	<0.001
Have you had face-to-face (1 meter distance) contact with a COVID-19 patient?	No	241	5,87%	148	4,95%	
Would you like to receive crisis management training about pandemic periods?	Yes	98	2,39%	83	2,78%	0,26
Did you attend any training on the covid-19 pandemic before the start of the internship?	No	489	11,90%	344	11,51%	
Have you been tested for COVID-19?	Yes	171	4,16%	168	5,62%	<0.001
Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19?	No	416	10,12%	259	8,67%	
Have you been reported as a contact during the pandemic period and went through the isolation process?	Yes	420	10,22%	290	9,70%	0,212
	No	167	4,06%	137	4,58%	

As a result of the analyzes made between the vaccination groups and the descriptive characteristics, a statistically significant difference was found between the groups and the related descriptive characteristics specified in the table. When the two groups were compared in terms of relevant descriptive features, it was determined that the people who want to be vaccinated are significantly higher than those who do not want to be vaccinated, according to the COVID-19 Pandemic Before the Start of the Internship, the status of being educated, the status of having a COVID-19 patient in the health institution where you do internship, and the direct service to the COVID-19 patient. In other words, when the two groups are compared in terms of their descriptive characteristics, there is a significant difference due to these 3 categories.

Chi-square tests were applied to determine the statistically significant difference between demographic characteristics according to the test status. Test results are given in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Analysis of Testing in Terms of Demographic Variables

Variables		Have Test		Haven't		p-Val
Age	17-20	81	2,54%	99	2,53%	<0.001
	21-23	299	9,37%	412	10,55%	
	24 and Above	76	2,38%	47	1,20%	
Gender	Male	67	2,10%	107	2,74%	0,06
	Female	389	12,19%	451	11,55%	
Do You Have Any Chronic Disease?	Yes	43	1,35%	59	1,51%	0,547
	No	413	12,95%	499	12,78%	
University Type	Public	90	2,82%	158	4,05%	<0.001
	Foundation	366	11,47%	400	10,24%	
Class	1	16	0,50%	30	0,77%	<0.001
	2	94	2,95%	85	2,18%	
	3	66	2,07%	83	2,12%	
	4	236	7,40%	319	8,17%	
	5	16	0,50%	23	0,59%	
	6	28	0,88%	18	0,46%	
Number of Internship Days During the Pandemic Process	1.Ağu	163	5,11%	194	4,97%	<0.001
	9-16	56	1,76%	93	2,38%	
	17-30	89	2,79%	157	4,02%	
	31-50	106	3,32%	96	2,46%	
	51-70	42	1,32%	18	0,46%	
Department	Nutrition and Dietetics	59	1,85%	91	2,33%	<0.001
	Midwifery	173	5,42%	92	2,36%	
	Physical therapy and rehabilitation	48	1,50%	68	1,74%	
	Nursing	120	3,76%	237	6,07%	
	Medical Faculty	54	1,69%	70	1,79%	

As a result of the analyzes made between the groups and the cases, a statistically significant difference was found between the groups in terms of Age, University Type, Class, Number of Internship Days During the Pandemic Process, and Department of Education. When the groups were compared in terms of age, it was found that those who were diagnosed were significantly higher in the 21-23 age group than those who did not.

Chi-square tests were applied to determine the statistically significant difference between descriptive features according to the test status. Test results are given in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Analysis of Vaccination Status in Terms of Descriptive Characteristics

Variables		Have Test		Haven't		p-Val
Did you attend any training on the covid-19 pandemic before the start of the internship?	Yes	198	6,62%	211	5,40%	0,07
Have you been tested for COVID-19?	No	258	8,62%	347	8,88%	
Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19?	Yes	123	4,11%	10	0,26%	<0.001
Have you been reported as a contact during the pandemic period and went through the isolation process?	No	133	4,45%	548	14,03%	
Have you had a COVID-19 patient in the health institution where you did your internship?	Yes	188	6,28%	61	1,56%	<0.001
Are you considering getting a COVID-19 vaccine?	No	268	8,96%	497	12,72%	
Did you directly serve a COVID-19 patient?	Yes	297	9,93%	328	8,40%	<0.001
Have you had face-to-face (1 meter distance) contact with a COVID-19 patient?	No	159	5,31%	230	5,89%	
Would you like to receive crisis management training about pandemic periods?	Yes	109	3,64%	72	1,84%	<0.001
Did you attend any training on the covid-19 pandemic before the start of the internship?	No	347	11,60%	486	12,44%	
Have you been tested for COVID-19?	Yes	197	6,58%	142	3,64%	<0.001
Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19?	No	259	8,66%	416	10,65%	
Have you been reported as a contact during the pandemic period and went through the isolation process?	Yes	322	10,76%	388	9,93%	0,709
	No	134	4,48%	170	4,35%	

As a result of the analyzes made between the groups having the test and the descriptive characteristics, a statistically significant difference was found in general. When the two groups were compared in terms of relevant descriptive characteristics, it was determined that the status of being diagnosed with COVID-19 was significantly higher in those who did not have the test than those who did. Similarly, it was found that those who did not have the test were significantly higher than those who did, in the case of being reported as contact during the pandemic period and undergoing the isolation process. In cases where there is a COVID-19 patient in the health institution where the internship is held and the COVID-19 patient is directly served, the total values were measured as close to each other, although the values of those who had and did not have the test were statistically different. According to the face-to-face contact with the COVID-19 patient, it was determined that those who did not have the test were significantly higher than those who did.

13.1% of the students included in our study have COVID-19 patients diagnosed in the health institution where they do internship, 17.90% provide direct service to COVID-19 patients and 33.4% face-to-face with COVID-19 patients. It has been determined that there is a contact (at a distance of 1 meter). It can be said that students are at risk.

55.03% of the students participating in our study did not have a COVID-19 test, 13.12% of those who had the test were diagnosed with COVID-19, 86.88 were undiagnosed, 24.56% were reported as contact and passed the isolation process. In the Istanbul Medical Chamber's survey of Istanbul Public Hospitals in the COVID-19 Pandemic, it was determined that 65.40% of the employees in the health facilities where the doctors who answered the questions were not given PCR testing. It was observed that 4.60% of the personnel who had the test and participated in the mentioned research were PCR (+) and 3% were PCR (-). The Ministry of Health announced that more than 120,000 health personnel in Turkey were detected as PCR (+) in December 2020, and 216 of them died due to COVID-19. (Medimagazin, 2020). In Turkey, according to the

General Information, Epidemiology and Diagnosis Guidelines of the General Directorate of Public Health of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, the PCR test is performed on the certain cases, and the test is not performed on the people other than the probable case, except for the screenings determined by the Ministry of Health. We think that students may not have been tested because PCR tests were not performed, except for possible case definition. According to the aforementioned guide and our thoughts, if students could not get tested, students who do not know that they are infected can transmit the infection to many people uncontrollably and become super contagious.

Among the students participating in our study, 35.2% of the students from the Nursing Department and 26.1% of the Midwifery Departments are seen to have applied training in health institutions at a higher rate than the other health departments. The reason for the high rate of students doing practical training in Midwifery and Nursing departments may be due to the high number of practice courses in the distribution. For example, according to the regulation on the determination of the minimum education and graduation conditions of the midwifery department, it may be necessary for students to have at least 40 births themselves in order to graduate.

40.34% of 1014 students reported that they had not participated in any training related to the COVID-19 pandemic before, and 74.54% of those who did not receive training were foundation university students. 58.60% of the doctors who participated in a similar study reported that they were not trained by their institutions before the epidemic. (Istanbul Medical Chamber's Survey of Istanbul Public Hospitals in the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020). Although Higher Education Institution recommends that students should be given training on infection control measures before they start practical training in health institutions, it is seen that there are students who do not receive training, and it is recommended to be audited by Higher Education Institution in this regard. (Higher Education of Institution of Turkey, New Normalization Process in the Global Epidemic, 2020).

57.89% of the students participating in our study stated that they wanted to be vaccinated against COVID-19. In a similar study, approximately 80% of the participants from the medical faculty reported that they would be vaccinated if there was a COVID-19 vaccine in our country. (Taneri, 2020) Although there was a COVID-19 vaccine in Turkey at the time of our study, this rate was lower in our study. It can be said that students do not have enough motivation and awareness about vaccination. The fact that medical faculty and dentistry intern students are at the forefront of the vaccination program, along with health workers, in the COVID-19 vaccine administration planning in Turkey shows that the risk of exposure and transmission to the disease is higher than other students. (T.R. Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Information Platform, 2021) For this reason, it is recommended to carry out the necessary persuasion and information activities in order to eliminate the anxiety and question marks of the students about the vaccine, if any.

CONCLUSION

As a result, practice training has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The actual number of cases cannot be determined because PCR tests are not performed in Turkey, except for possible case definition, or because some of the people who had the test showed negative PCR (-) even if they showed all the clinical and laboratory symptoms of the COVID-19 disease, they were not diagnosed with COVID-19. In this case, we do not know how widely the students unconsciously spread the virus. In order to reach real data in the fight against the epidemic, to prevent the spread and to control the disease, students should be screened and measures should be taken for young people. In Turkey, in the planning of COVID-19 vaccine administration, the faculty of medicine and the faculty of dentistry are at the forefront of the vaccination program of intern students, but other health departments are not prioritized. It is recommended that other health field students such as nursing, midwifery etc. should be prioritized in vaccination because they are also at risk and are at risk in the spread of the epidemic. It is also recommended that the academicians accompanying the students in the hospitals receive priority vaccination.

In our study, 409 students, who made up 40.34% of the participants, stated that they did not participate in any training related to the COVID-19 pandemic before the start of the application training, and 710 students stated that they wanted to receive crisis management training related to the Pandemic. Based on this finding, it reveals that approximately 200 people who have received training before want to receive training again. It has been determined that the students need education, and trainings should be organized on information about the epidemic, effective coping methods and crisis management in epidemics to reduce the anxiety of the students.

During the pandemic process, it has been observed that some universities canceled the applied trainings and made them do distance education with methods such as lectures, homework, projects, some universities postponed them, and some sent students to health facilities.

This shows that there is no unity of practice among universities. Considering the increase in the number of positive cases in Turkey, the risk of transmission, and the fact that these students may be carriers and increase the spread, it is recommended that a general decision be taken by the Higher Education Institution, and the practical training in the field of health should be postponed or canceled by ensuring a unity of practice among universities.

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT**GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET****COVID-19 SÜRECİNDE ÜNİVERSİTE ÖĞRENCİLERİNİN FARKINDALIK DÜZEYİ : TIP FAKÜLTESİ VE SAĞLIK BİLİMLERİ FAKÜLTESİ ÖĞRENCİLERİ ÜZERİNE BİR ARAŞTIRMA**

Giriş ve Çalışmanın Amacı (Introduction and Research Purpose): COVID-19 salgını dünya genelinde birçok sektörü etkilediği gibi, üniversite öğrencileri için de büyük bir dönüşüm ve uyum sürecini beraberinde getirmiştir. Bu çalışmanın amacı, tıp fakültesi ve sağlık bilimleri fakültesi öğrencilerinin COVID-19 salgını sürecindeki farkındalık düzeylerini belirlemek ve enfeksiyon riskini azaltmaya yönelik politikaların geliştirilmesine katkıda bulunmaktır. Ayrıca, pandemi ve kriz dönemlerinde öğrencilerin eğitim ihtiyaçlarını analiz ederek literatüre katkı sağlamayı hedeflemektedir.

Kavramsal/kuramsal çerçeve (Literature Review): COVID-19 salgını, insan sağlığına ve toplum hayatına ciddi bir tehdit oluşturmuştur. Bu süreçte, sağlık çalışanları ve tıp fakültesi öğrencileri gibi sağlık sektöründe eğitim alan bireyler özellikle ön saflarda yer almışlardır. Bu nedenle, bu çalışma kapsamında tıp fakültesi ve sağlık bilimleri fakültesi öğrencilerinin farkındalık düzeyi incelenmiştir. Ayrıca, pandemi ve kriz dönemlerinde öğrencilerin eğitim ihtiyaçlarının belirlenmesi önemlidir, çünkü bu ihtiyaçlar doğrultusunda etkili politikalar geliştirilebilir.

Yöntem ve Bulgular (Methodology and Findings): Çalışma, İstanbul'da bulunan bir tıp fakültesi ve sağlık bilimleri fakültesine bağlı hemşirelik, ebelik, fizyoterapi ve rehabilitasyon, beslenme ve diyetetik ile çocuk gelişimi bölümlerinde okuyan 1014 öğrenci üzerinde yürütülmüştür. Birincil veriler anket aracılığıyla toplanmıştır. Gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılıkların belirlenmesi için ki-kare testi kullanılmıştır. Analiz sonuçlarına göre, örneklemin %40,34'ünü oluşturan 409 öğrencinin staj başlamadan önce COVID-19 pandemisi ile ilgili herhangi bir eğitim almadığı tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca, bu öğrencilerin pandemi ile ilgili kriz yönetimi eğitimi almak istedikleri ortaya çıkmıştır. Bu bulgular, öğrencilerin eğitim ihtiyaçlarını ve eksikliklerini vurgulamaktadır.

Sonuç ve Öneriler (Conclusions and Recommendation): Bu çalışmanın sonuçlarına dayanarak, tıp fakültesi ve sağlık bilimleri fakültesi öğrencilerinin COVID-19 salgını sürecindeki farkındalık düzeylerinin artırılması ve enfeksiyon riskini azaltmaya yönelik politikaların geliştirilmesi için bazı öneriler sunulabilir.

Eğitim İhtiyacının Belirlenmesi: Öğrencilerin %40'ından fazlasının pandemiyle ilgili eğitim almadığı ve kriz yönetimi eğitimi taleplerinin olduğu belirlenmiştir. Bu nedenle, üniversiteler ve ilgili sağlık kurumları, öğrencilerin pandemiyle ilgili bilinçlendirilmesi, enfeksiyon kontrolü ve kriz yönetimi konularında düzenli eğitim programları geliştirmelidir.

Bilgilendirme ve İletişim Stratejileri: Öğrencilerin kaygılarını azaltmak ve doğru bilgiye erişimini sağlamak için etkili bilgilendirme ve iletişim stratejileri uygulanmalıdır. Bu, güncel salgın bilgilerinin düzenli olarak paylaşılması, doğru kaynaklardan sağlanan bilgiye erişim imkanının sağlanması ve soruların yanıtlanmasını içermelidir.

Etik ve Psikososyal Destek: Salgın dönemlerinde öğrencilerin psikososyal ihtiyaçlarına yönelik destek sağlanmalıdır. Öğrencilere, stresle başa çıkma stratejileri, duygusal desteğin önemi ve salgının etik boyutları hakkında bilgilendirme yapılmalıdır. Ayrıca, danışmanlık hizmetleri ve destek grupları gibi kaynaklar sunulmalıdır.

Kriz Yönetimi Eğitimi: Öğrencilere kriz yönetimi becerileri kazandırmak için özel eğitim programları düzenlenmelidir. Bu programlar, kriz durumlarında etkili iletişim, karar verme, liderlik ve işbirliği becerilerini geliştirmeye odaklanmalıdır. Öğrenciler, salgın sürecinde sağlık hizmetlerinin etkili bir şekilde sunulmasına katkıda bulunacak yetkinlikleri kazanmalıdır.

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