

Perceptions of Midwives About the Midwifery Profession: A Metaphor Study

Ebelerin Ebelik Mesleğine İlişkin Algıları: Bir Metafor Çalışması

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The purpose of this study is to explain the perceptions of midwives about the midwifery profession through metaphors.

Methods: This study utilized a phenomenological study design. Data were collected online using Google Forms between March 01, 2022, and April 30, 2022.

Results: The average age of participating midwives was 34.94 ± 8.18 . The results of the study indicated 47 different metaphors produced by 89 midwives. The metaphors obtained were grouped into 3 categories positive, negative, and both positive and negative. While 71 midwives produced metaphors in the positive category (81.6%), 6 midwives produced metaphors in the negative category (6.9%) and 10 midwives (11.5%) produced metaphors in both positive and negative categories. Two responses were excluded from the data since they did not contain metaphors.

Conclusion: The majority of the midwives were found to produce positive metaphors and have positive perceptions about their profession.

Keywords: Midwifery, metaphor, perception of profession

ÖZ

Amaç: Bu araştırmanın amacı ebelerin ebelik mesleğiyle ilgili algılarını metaforlarla açıklamaktır.

Yöntemler: Araştırmada fenomenolojik yöntem kullanılmıştır. Veriler, 01 Mart-30 Nisan 2022'de online olarak Google Form aracılığıyla toplanmıştır.

Bulgular: Çalışmaya katılan ebelerin yaş ortalaması $34,94 \pm 8,18$ 'dir. Araştırmanın sonucunda 89 ebeden 47 farklı metafor elde edilmiştir. Ortaya çıkan metaforlar olumlu, olumsuz ve hem olumlu hem olumsuz olmak üzere üç kategoride değerlendirilmiştir. Ebelerden 71'i olumlu kategoride (%81,6), 6'sı olumsuz kategoride (%6,9) ve 10'u hem olumlu hem olumsuz kategoride metafor (%11,5) üretmiştir. Verilen yanıtlardan 2'si metafor özelliği taşımadığı için çalışma bulguları dışında bırakılmıştır.

Sonuç: Ebelerin çoğunluğunun olumlu metafor ürettiği ve mesleklerine ilişkin algılarının da olumlu olduğu belirlenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ebelik, metafor, meslek algısı

Introduction

Midwifery is one of the oldest professions in the world. The WHO defines a midwife as “a person who provides the necessary care and advice during pregnancy, labor and the post-partum period; conducts vaginal deliveries on her own responsibility; has been educated to care for the newborn; and is responsible for performing preventive measures, detection of abnormal conditions during pregnancy, and the procurement of medical assistance when necessary” (WHO, 2018). Midwifery is a sacred and spiritually satisfying profession that enables midwives to perform their profession willingly all the time. The attitudes of midwives toward their profession are closely associated with maternal and infant health and thus community health. Therefore, exploration of the ways midwives perceive their profession is an important issue (Baskaya et al., 2020).

Perception is the way individuals perceive conditions and events (Balkan et al., 2012). Individuals develop attitudes according to how they perceive an event or condition and demonstrate behaviors within the framework of the attitudes they develop. Positive perceptions about the profession play an important role in individuals' embracement of their profession, the accomplishment of professional success, and the social development of the profession (Derin et al., 2017). The most important factor in the perception process is the individual. Each individual may have different perceptions and thoughts about the same concept. Accordingly, perceptual characteristics may differ (Erişti et al., 2013).

Individuals use metaphors as an effective way of describing their perceptions. Metaphor is defined as describing a concept using other words similar to it (Turkish Language Association, 2011). Metaphors are described as "the strongest mental tools that construct, direct and control our thoughts about the formation and functioning of events" (Saban, 2004). Individuals often utilize metaphors while describing their emotions and thoughts (Geçit & Gençer, 2011). Metaphors contribute to the exploration of how concepts to be analyzed are perceived. It is important in terms of putting the midwife and midwifery profession metaphors and their perceptions about both their profession and their colleagues with whom they will work. A review of the literature in terms of metaphor studies indicates that studies in the field of health generally describe professional perceptions of students, nurses, and doctors through metaphors (Abay, 2017; Ay et al., 2018; Kale & Çiçek, 2015; Taşkın Yılmaz et al., 2014); there is a limited number of studies on the metaphoric perceptions of working midwives about their profession. Various metaphors can be produced to understand midwifery. The first metaphor about midwifery was used in Plato's Theaetetus "Imagine Socrates being a midwife." Socrates, whose mother was a midwife, stated that he practiced the art of midwifery by gathering people around him and that he revealed knowledge by releasing their thoughts (Molander, 1990). Therefore, the present study aims to find out how midwives perceive their profession through metaphors, analyze the profession better, realize the problems in the profession, and contribute to its development. The study is believed to provide a meaningful contribution to the literature. Besides, an investigation of the perceptions of midwives about the midwifery profession is considered to contribute to the development of both individual and social perceptions of the midwifery profession. In this regard, this study aims to explore the perceptions of midwives regarding their profession through metaphors.

Methods

Study Design

This study utilized a qualitative and phenomenological study design. Phenomenological studies aim to reveal meanings attributed to a phenomenon or experience by individuals or their perceptions in this direction. In this method, the definitions suggested regarding the phenomenon investigated are divided into categories. These categories help us to understand what individuals think (Ay et al., 2018; Kocabyık, 2016). With phenomenology, events, experiences, perceptions, tendencies, concepts, and situations can be investigated (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013).

The Setting of the Study

Data were collected online through Google Forms between March 01, 2022, and April 30, 2022. The snowball sampling method was utilized to collect data. The forms were sent to the participants through WhatsApp to enhance their participation. In snowball

sampling, the sampling process starts by reaching one individual subject and providing information about just one other subject. The researcher tries to reach new subjects by asking the subjects previously reached to provide other referrals (Yağar & Dökme 2018).

Target Population and the Sample

Data collection ended in April as the metaphors began to repeat. The sample of the study included 89 volunteer midwives among those who worked as midwives at Mersin in Turkey and had been midwives for at least 1 month. The data collection phase was completed by the researcher as soon as the data is saturated.

Inclusion Criteria

- Agreeing to participate in the study.
- Reading and writing in Turkish.
- Working as a midwife for at least 1 month.

Data Collection Tools

The data collection tool, prepared by the researchers in line with the literature, was composed of 2 parts (Denat et al., 2008; Dimitriadou et al., 2015; Kale & Çiçek, 2015; Özmen & Çetinkaya, 2016; Saban, 2004). The form included 9 questions. While the first part had 7 questions regarding the participants' descriptive features (age, marital status, education level, mode of delivery, years of working, working unit), the second part had 2 questions regarding how the participants perceive the midwifery profession including the statement of "Midwifery is like ... because..."

Data Collection

Data were collected online. The participants' consent was received through the Google Form. Data collection took about 5-10 minutes.

Data Analysis

The analysis of the quantitative data was performed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 21.0 (IBM SPSS Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) program. Participating midwives' descriptive characteristics were presented as numbers and percentage distributions. The difference between the participants' descriptive features and metaphor categories was analyzed using the chi-square test.

Analysis of the qualitative data was performed using the "content analysis technique." Content analysis is the summary of the content categories through codings (Küçük et al., 2020). The data obtained were analyzed through the evaluation of the data, interpretation of the data, formation of the meaning in the data, and categorization methods. The categories analyzed in line with the justifications were formed by the researchers separately and reviewed by an expert specialized in qualitative research. The participants were indicated with codes from 1 to 89 initiated with the letter P for confidentiality purposes, with P1 indicating the first participant, P2 indicating the second participant, and so on.

Evaluation of the Data

The participants' responses to the questions were noted down by the researchers separately and collected in a single text. Data from 2 participants were not included in the analysis as they could not produce any metaphors about midwifery. For instance, while "midwifery is like a mother" can be accepted as a metaphor, "Midwifery is sometimes an easy job" was not accepted since it did not contain a metaphor.

Interpretation of the Data

The analysis of the responses included the categorization of the statements with the same or similar meaning to reflect the expression meant. For instance, the phrase “hand of a mother” was indicated as “mother”.

Formation of the Meaning in the Data

The researchers did not make any interpretations of the forms where the participants wrote the metaphors with justifications.

Categorization

The metaphors produced by the midwives about their profession were divided into 3 categories as positive, negative, and both positive and negative (Eraslan, 2011). The metaphors were found to be justified in terms of both positive and negative meanings and included in both categories (Çulha Özbaş & Aktekin, 2013; Yüzer et al., 2008).

Ethical Considerations

Approval to conduct the study was obtained from the ethics committee of Tarsus University (Protocol No. 2022 /16, Date: February 28, 2022).

Results

Table 1 demonstrates the descriptive characteristics of the participants and indicates the mean age as 34.94 ± 8.18 (min: 23, max: 54). Of all the midwives, 68.5% were married, 97.7% had an undergraduate or postgraduate degree, 53.9% had a vaginal delivery, 45.0% had 2 and more children, 29.2% had been working for 1 month to 5 years, and 45.2% worked in the delivery room. These metaphors were divided into 3 categories as positive, negative, and both positive and negative. Of all the different metaphors produced, 81.6% were positive ($n = 71$), 6.9% were negative ($n = 6$), and 11.5% were both positive and negative ($n = 10$). Two responses were excluded from the study data as they did not contain metaphors.

Participating midwives produced a total of 47 different metaphors. Table 2 demonstrates the distribution of the metaphors under each category as well as how many times they were cited. In the positive category, the midwives most frequently produced the “miracle” metaphor. In the negative category, the most frequently produced metaphors were “burden,” “unique precious stone with an unknown value,” “thorny road,” “joker staff,” and “assistance.” “Motherhood,” on the other hand, was found to be the most frequently produced metaphor in both positive and negative categories.

Chi-square analysis was performed to test whether there were any differences between the categories of the metaphors produced and the participants’ demographic characteristics, which indicated no differences ($P > .05$).

Although it is not presented as a table, an analysis of the justifications of the 47 different metaphors indicated the following:

-The metaphors in the positive category showed that midwifery was generally perceived as “motherhood, life, art, miracle, *indicating the caregiving role of midwifery*.” The participants’ justifications for the positive metaphors were as follows:

Justification Examples for the Positive Perceptions

“A person who has one-to-one communication with the mother in the first, second, and third phases” (P10).

Characteristics ($n = 89$)	Min-Max	Ort \pm SD
Age	23–54	34.94 ± 8.18
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Marital status		
Married	61	68.5
Single	28	31.5
Education level		
High school	2	2.3
Undergraduate and postgraduate	87	97.7
Mode of delivery		
Vaginal Delivery	48	53.9
Cesarean section	25	28.1
Nulliparous	16	18.0
Number of living children		
0	36	40.4
1	13	14.6
2 and more	40	45.0
Years of working		
1 month-5 years	26	29.2
5–10 years	20	22.5
10–15 years	15	16.8
15–20 years	11	12.4
20 years and over	17	19.1
Working unit		
Gynecology-Emergency Unit	7	7.7
Family Health Center	32	35.3
Delivery room	41	45.2
Infection Unit	9	11.8
Distribution of all the metaphors ($n = 87$)		
Positive	71	81.6
Negative	6	6.9
Both positive and negative	10	11.5
*Data from two participants were not categorized as they could not produce metaphors.		

“A person who leads the baby in the mother’s womb to come into the world and live a quality life” (P16).

-The metaphors in the negative category showed that midwifery was perceived as a “burden one remains under, a precious stone with an unknown value, joker staff, assistance,” *indicating justifications for the workload and conditions of the profession*.

Justification Examples of Negative Perceptions

“Sometimes you feel insufficient and regretful” (P19).

“Conditions of the hospital where you work and the language problem you experience with mothers whose delivery you perform. ... Patients’ level of education and culture try my patience; affect the quality of the service I provide; and make me have difficulty in performing my profession” (P32).

-Justifications in both positive and negative categories, such as “the end of the beginning, sometimes the beginning of the

Table 2.
Metaphors Produced by Midwives About Their Profession

Positive Metaphors	n*	Negative Metaphors	n*	Both Positive and Negative Metaphors	n*
Testimony	1	Burden	1	Adrenaline	1
Family	1	Unique precious stone with an unknown value	1	End of the beginning, the beginning of the end	1
Motherhood	11				
Hand of a mother	1				
Baby	2				
Integrity	1	Motherhood	1	Motherhood	3
Lifeline	2				
Heaven	1	Thorny road	1	Empathy	1
Flower	1	Joker staff	1	Porterage	1
Supporter	1	Assistance	1	Snowdrop	1
Rainbow	1			A raindrop under a very hot sun	1
Sky	1				
Artist witnessing sunrise	1				
House of confidence	2			Minefield	1
Life	6				
First touch	2				
Heroism	1				
Capillary vessel	1				
Being a hand to someone without an arm	1				
Sacred profession	3				
Confidentiality	1				
Angel	2				
Miracle	12				
Happiness	1				
Engineering	1				
Breath	1				
Guide	1				
Patience	1				
Art	3				
Love	1				
Water	2				
Rebirth	3				
Fellow	1	-			

n* indicates the number of each metaphor cited.
b+c+d = 47

end, snowdrop” were found to be related to *the risks in the midwifery profession as well as the positive emotions due to working with women and infants despite the workload and wearing nature of the profession*. Justifications indicated by the participants regarding both positive and negative metaphors were as follows:

Justification Examples About Both Positive and Negative Perceptions

“It is risky and vital” (P2).

“The support of the midwife in difficult moments like delivery is like having our mother with us at all hard times” (P6).

Discussion

This study aims to explore the perceptions of midwives about their profession through metaphors. The study found that the majority of midwives produced positive metaphors about their profession. The metaphors in the positive category such as “miracle, motherhood, life, sacred profession, and rebirth” indicate the factors in the fundamentals of midwifery philosophy such as being with the mother all the time and providing care.

The literature was found to include a limited number of studies that investigated working midwives’ perceptions of the profession. Kale and Çiçek (2015) aimed to determine metaphoric perceptions of midwives about their profession and found that the

majority of the nurses had negative perceptions and generally were not happy about their profession. This study generally found positive views; the difference is considered to be caused by the differences in the profession and the clinics where the studies were conducted.

The study conducted by Taşkın Yılmaz et al. (2014) aimed to determine the professional perceptions of midwives and nurses and found that midwives and nurses performed their profession willingly but their professional perceptions were not good. In their study that aimed to determine the professional perceptions of midwifery students, Ay et al. (2018) found that midwifery students had positive perceptions, but they were not willing to perform their profession after graduation as they were aware of the difficulties of the profession. Different findings in this study could be related to the fact that the participants were still students and did not have primary responsibilities in the profession yet. Abay (2017) investigated medical faculty students' perceptions about their profession and reported that students generally had positive perceptions about their profession. The findings of this study are in line with the findings of the present study. Similarly, Karakul et al. (2022) aimed to determine professional perceptions of pediatric nurses through metaphors and found that the majority of pediatric nurses produced positive metaphors and they had positive professional perceptions. The findings were found to be similar to the findings of the present study. In addition, the study conducted by Yılmaz and Güven (2021) aimed to determine student nurses' perceptions of the nursing profession through metaphors and found that students generally had positive perceptions of the profession. The findings were found to be similar to the findings in this study. The study conducted by Akça et al. (2019) with midwifery department students reported that midwifery students with high social intelligence also had positive perceptions about their profession. In the study conducted by Uçan Yamaç and Çetinkaya (2021) on midwifery students, 25.6% of the students stated that the midwifery profession is a very sacred profession. In a study by Ulrich (2004) in which the first birth stories of student midwives were examined, student midwives expressed their hands as the sacred nests of new lives. In Yeşil and Apak's (2023) study, students need a large number of metaphors when explaining the concept of midwife and these metaphors are gathered under 6 conceptual themes such as "sacred," "a member of the family," "guide," "strong," "helper," and "multifaceted." Positive views about the profession are in line with this study. Different findings in other studies could be caused by the factors indicating that the participants were still students and they had future anxiety and inadequacy about the profession.

Study Limitations

The study is limited to sociodemographic questions and the metaphor sentence "Midwifery is like ... because". In addition, since there is no similar study on the subject of working in midwifery, the possibility of discussing the situation in the field constitutes the limitation of the study.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study found that the metaphors produced by midwives about their profession had a wide range. Based on the metaphors midwives produced, it can be said that midwives generally had positive perceptions about their profession, and they used metaphors reflecting the spiritual aspects of the profession as well as the difficulties and problems they experience. Exploration of the

perceptions of midwives about their profession through metaphors is considered to help to understand how they perceive their profession, analyze the profession better, realize the problems, and contribute to the development of the profession. These are important for the development of this profession. Hence, it is recommended to explore the perceptions of midwives about the profession and repeat the study at different times and with groups in different units.

Ethics Committee Approval: Ethics committee approval was received for this study from the ethics committee of Tarsus University (Date: February 28, 2022, Number: 2022 /16).

Informed Consent: Written informed consent was obtained from midwives who participated in this study.

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Geniřletilmiř Özet

Ebelik dünyanın en eski mesleklerinden biridir. Dünya Sağlık Örgütü'nün tanımına göre ebe; "Gebelik, doğum ve doğumdan sonra gerekli bakım ve danışmanlığı sağlayan, normal doğumları kendi sorumluluğunda yaptıran ve yenidoğanın bakımını yapmak üzere eğitim almıř, gebelikte sorunların önlenmesi, anormal durumların tespiti, gerektiğinde tıbbi yardım uygulamakla görevli kiřidir." (WHO, 2018).

Ebeliğın kutsal ve manevi doyum veren bir meslek oluřu, ebelerin mesleklerini her zaman severek yapmalarını saėlamaktadır. Ebelerin mesleklerine karřı tutumları anne ve bebek saėlığını dolayısıyla toplum saėlığını yakından ilgilendirmektedir (Baskaya et al., 2020).

Metafor; bir kavramı ona benzerliėi olan bařka bir kelimeyle anlatmadır (TDK). Metaforlar "olayların oluřumu ve iřleyiři hakkında düşüncelerimizi yapılandıran, yönlendiren ve kontrol eden en güçlü zihinsel araç" olarak ifade edilmektedir (Saban, 2004). Bireyler, kendi duygu ve düşüncelerini betimlerken sıklıkla metaforlara başvururlar (Geçit & Gencer, 2011). Metaforlar, analiz edilen kavramların nasıl algılandığını ortaya çıkarmada katkı saėlarlar. Literatüre baktığımızda metafor çalışmalarının çoėunlukla saėlık alanındaki öğrencilerin, hemřirelerin ve hekimlerin mesleki algılarını metaforla tanımlayan çalışmalar olduėu görülmektedir, çalışan ebelerin mesleki algısına yönelik metaforik olarak yapılan sınırlı çalışmaya rastlanmıřtır (Tařkın Yılmaz ve ark, 2014; Kale ve Çiçek, 2015; Ay ve ark,2017; Abay, 2017). Bu çalışmada ebelerin mesleklerine iliřkin algılarını, metaforlar aracılıėı ile ortaya çıkarmak amaçlanmıřtır.

Çalışma nitel ve fenomenoloji yaklařımı kullanılarak yapılmıřtır. Verileri Google Formlar aracılıėıyla online olarak, 01 Mart-30 Nisan 2022 tarihleri arasında toplanmıřtır. Verilerin toplanmasında kartopu örnekleme yöntemi kullanılmıřtır. Formlar arařtırmacıların WhatsApp hesaplarına gönderilerek katılım saėlamaları istenmiřtir. Metaforların tekrar etmeye başlamasıyla veri toplama iřlemi Nisan ayında sona ermiřtir. Türkiye Mersin ili içerisinde ebe olan, en az 1 aydır ebe olarak görev yapan, ebeler arasından arařtırmanın örneklemini arařtırmaya katılmaya gönüllü 89 ebe oluřturmuřtur. Veri toplama formu iki bölümden oluřmakta olup arařtırmacılar tarafından literatür doėrultusunda hazırlanmıřtır (Saban, 2004; Kale ve Çiçek,2015; Denat et al., 2008; Dimitriadou et al., 2015; Özmen ve Çetinkaya, 2016). İlk kısım, katılımcıların tanıtıcı bilgilerinin (yař, medeni durum, eğitim durumu, doğum řekli, çocuk sayısı, çalışma yılı, çalıştığı birim) içeren 7 sorudan; ikinci kısım ise; ebelik mesleğini nasıl algıladıklarını içeren "Ebelik... gibidir, çünkü..." metafor cümlesinin yer aldığı 2 soru olmak üzere toplam 9 sorudan oluřmaktadır. Arařtırma verileri online olarak toplanmıřtır. Arařtırmadan elde edilen nicel verilerin analizi SPSS 21.0 istatistik paket programında gerçekleřtirilmiřtir. Katılımcı ebelerin tanıtıcı özellikleri sayı ve yüzde daėılım řeklinde verilmiřtir. Katılımcıların tanıtıcı özellikleri ile metaforların kategorileri arasındaki farklılık ki-kare testi kullanılarak deėerlendirilmiřtir. Bu arařtırmada elde edilen nitel verilerin deėerlendirilmesinde "içerik analizi tekniėi" kullanılmıřtır. Arařtırmaya katılan ebelerin yař ortalaması 34,94 ± 8,18'dir (min: 23, max: 54). Arařtırmaya katılan ebelerden toplam 47 farklı metafor elde edilmiřtir. Elde edilen bu metaforlar olumlu, olumsuz ve hem olumlu hem olumsuz olmak üzere üç kategoriye ayrılmıřtır. Üretilen bu farklı metaforların %81.6'u olumlu (n = 71), %6.9'u olumsuz (n = 6) ve %11.5'i hem olumlu hem olumsuz (n = 10) kategoridedir. Verilen yanıtlardan 2'si metafor özelliėi taşımadığı için çalışma bulguları dışında bırakılmıřtır. Üretilen metaforların kategorileri ile katılımcıların demografik özellikleri açısından fark olup olmadığı ki-kare analizi kullanılarak test edilmiř ve herhangi bir farklılık belirlenmemiřtir (p > ,05). Tablo olarak verilmekle birlikte elde edilen 47 farklı metaforların gerekçeleri incelendiğinde; Olumlu kategoride yer alan metaforların, genellikle "annelik, hayat, sanat, mucize" gibi algılanarak ebeliğın bakım verici yönünü gerekçelendirildiėi belirlenmiřtir. Olumlu algıya yönelik örnek olarak "Birinci ikinci ve üçüncü basamakta anne ile bire bir iletiřim olan kiři." (K10). Olumsuz kategoride yer alan metaforların, "altında kalınan yük, deėeri bilinmeyen eřsiz deėerli tař, joker eleman, yardım etme" gibi algılanarak mesleğın iř yükü ve kořullarına yönelik gerekçeler olduėu görülmüřtür. Olumsuz algılara yönelik örnek "Bazen kendinizi yetersiz ve piřman hissedersiniz." (K19). Hem olumlu hem olumsuz kategoride yer alan metaforların gerekçeleri ise "bařlangıcın sonu, bazen de sonun bařlangıcı, kardelen" gibi ebeliğın çalışma kořullarındaki riskleri, iř yükü ve yıpratıcı olmasına raėmen kadınlarla ve bebeklerle birlikte çalışmanın olumlu duyguları ile ilgili olduėu belirlenmiřtir. Hem olumlu hem olumsuz algılara yönelik örnek; "Risklidir ve hayatidir" (K2).

Literatürde çalışan ebelerin meslek algılarını inceleyen çalışmaların sınırlı sayıda olduėu görülmektedir. Kale ve Çiçek (2015) tarafından hemřirelerin meslekleriyle iliřkili metafor algılarını belirlemek amacıyla yapılan çalışmada hemřirelerin birçoėunun meslekleriyle ilgili olumsuz algıya sahip oldukları ve genellikle mesleklerinden memnun olmadıkları belirtilmiřtir. Çalışmamızda genellikle olumlu görüşler çıkarken bu çalışmada farklı görüşlerin de yer almasının mesleklerin farklı oluřu ve çalışmanın yapıldığı kliniklerden kaynaklı olabileceėi düşünülmektedir. Tařkın Yılmaz ve ark. (2014) tarafından yapılan çalışmada ebelerin ve hemřirelerin mesleki algılarını belirlemek amaçlanmıř olup, ebelerin ve hemřirelerin mesleklerini severek yaptıkları ama mesleki algılarının iyi olmadığı belirtilmiřtir.

Arařtırma sonucunda, ebelerin, mesleğine yönelik metaforik algılarının geniř bir yelpazeye sahip olduėu ortaya çıkmıřtır. Ebelerin oluřturdukları metaforlardan yola çıkarak meslek algılarının genel olarak olumlu yönde olduėu, mesleğın manevi yönlerini yansıtan metaforların yanı sıra mesleğın zorluklarını ve yařadıkları sorunları yansıtan metaforlar da kullandıkları belirlenmiřtir. Ebelerin sahip oldukları mesleki algıları metaforlar yoluyla ortaya koymak, mesleklerini nasıl algılandığının anlaşılmasına, mesleğın daha iyi analiz edilmesine, sorunların fark edilmesine ve mesleğın geliřtirilmesine katkı saėlayacaktır. Bu mesleğın geliřimi açısından önemlidir.