

EP01.02

Knowledge of nulliparous women healthcare professionals & students about child development

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Background & Aim: in developing countries like Turkey, parents are not informed or got satisfying knowledge about child development. in this study, our aim is to evaluate the maternal knowledge about child development in healthcare professionals, who are expected to exemplary in this field.

Methods: The female healthcare specialist and students who are in faculties related with health (school of medicine, dentistry, nursing etc.) were included in the study. The Caregiver Knowledge of Child Development Inventory (CKCDI) was used to determine their knowledge and their sociodemographic features were recorded. for statistical analysis; Chi square, Student T-test, and ANNOVA were used via SPSS v20.0, $p < 0.05$ was considered significant.

Results: in total, 120 female whose mean age was 25.69 ± 5.40 were included the study. 70.9% graduated from university, 26.7% were nurse and 75.0% were single. While only 11.7% of them acquired knowledge about child development from Family Physicians, most of them (35.8%) learned from journals/books. The mean score of the CKCDI of the total group out of 40 points was 17.66 ± 8.21 (min=0, max=34). The mean CKCDI score was significantly higher (8.21 ± 1.50) in married females than single women ($p = 0.007$). The most correct answers that participants got were to the questions; “when to teach them how to count” (67.5%, $n = 81$), “the colors” (64.2%, $n = 77$), and “the time when children start to walk” (66.7%, $n = 80$). On the other hand, the questions about; “looking at children’s books” (87.5%, $n = 105$), “giving safe household items to them” (88.3%, $n = 106$) were answered most incorrectly. There was borderline significant relation with CKCDI scores and the occupation in medical doctors ($p = 0.051$).

Conclusions: in our country, female health staff and students have unsatisfying knowledge about child development. As being role models to the public, all health staff should be trained about child development and it should be obligatory lesson in all health related schools.