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Knowledge levels of nurses and midwives working in family practice about violence to woman

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Objective: Violence against women is an important public health problem that is increasing day by day. This study was conducted to determine the knowledge and attitudes of midwives and nurses working in family practice about violence against women.

Method: This descriptive study was conducted with 120 nurses and midwives working in family practices of eastern Turkey. Survey method was used in collecting data of "Scale Form for Definition of Violence against Women Signs by Nurses and Midwives". The validity and reliability were studied by Baysan and Karadağlı (2003). The study was started with approval of the Research Ethics Committee of Fırat University Medicine Faculty. Analysis of the data was performed using the SPSS program.

Results: The average age of participants was 33.2 ± 5.4 . 57.5% of participants were midwives, 42.5% were nurses and 84.2% were married. 55.8% of employees and 29.2% of employees have stated that they didn't receive any information before and after graduation about violence against women, respectively. 80.4% of the nurses and 73.9% of the midwives had experienced violence against women, 5.0% of them reported and 65.8% of them applied legal way. The total scale score for definition of violence to women symptoms by health workers was found 19.1 ± 3.5 . The subscale scores for the physical and emotional statements about violence to woman were 8.2 ± 1.8 and 10.9 ± 2.5 respectively.

Conclusion: It was determined that nurses and midwives, who constantly worked with women, were inadequate to definite signs of violence against women.

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