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Determination of healthcare student's bias towards Obesity

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Aim: This study was conducted to determine the prejudices of health education students on obesity.

Material and Method: The research was carried out as a descriptive research between February and April 2017. The population consisted of all students (729) who were studying in the health departments of Agri Ibrahim Cecen University Faculty of Health and Health Services Vocational School in the 2016-2017 academic year. The sampling method was not applied, as the population composed of 729 students who voluntarily accepted to participate in the study. A questionnaire and GAMS-27 Obesity Prejudice Scale were used as data collection tools. The approval of ethics committee and institutional permissions were obtained before conducting the research. Number, percentage, Cronbach α , Kruskal Wallis, Mann Whitney-U, Spearman's rank of correlation and Shapiro-Wilk Test were utilized to evaluate the data.

Results: The average of obesity prejudice scale of the students was 75.54 ± 10.43 , thus they tend to prejudice. The average score of the students who declare they have no prejudice towards obese individuals is higher ($X=75.91 \pm 10.07$) than the average score of the students who declare that they are prejudiced ($X=73.60 \pm 12.03$). It was determined that the students who define themselves as obese and who are obese according to Body Mass Index classification had the highest average score ($X=76.49 \pm 11.02$). A statistically significant difference was found between the obesity prejudice scale of the students and only the sex of the students, among all the social and demographic characteristics ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: According to the results of the study, when the effects of the obesity prejudice of health education students on health services are considered, the necessity of educational interventions was revealed to reduce obesity prejudice.

Key Words: Healthcare, obesity, obesity prejudice, stigmatization.

Biography

Hasret YALCINOZ BAYSAL finished PhD in Nursing from Ataturk University in the field of Public Health Nursing in 2013. She received the title of Assistant Professor in the same year. She has conducted research on subject such as exercise, screening, cancer, nursing, obesity. Currently, Ataturk University, Faculty of Nursing is Assistant Professor.

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