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### Emotional intelligence levels of nursing students

Selen Ozakar Akca<sup>1</sup>, Aydan Akurt Yalcinturk<sup>2</sup> and Yeliz Yelen Akpinar<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hittit University, Turkey

<sup>2</sup>University of Health Sciences, Turkey

<sup>3</sup>Istanbul Bilim University, Turkey

Emotional intelligence is defined as the component of intelligence, which enables one to understand and manage his/her own emotions, and to understand the feelings of others, to develop empathy and to develop self-confidence. Emotional intelligence is essential for nursing practices where communication and problem solving are prominent. As emotional intelligence plays a key role in nursing profession, it is therefore important by any means necessary to determine the emotional intelligence levels and the needs of the nursing students before entering into the profession. The aim of this paper is to determine the emotional intelligence levels and the factors that affect the emotional intelligence levels of final year university students in Faculty of Health Sciences. The population of this descriptive and cross-sectional research consisted of final year students training in the Faculty of Health Sciences in the 2017-2018 academic year (n=140). The data of the study were collected by using the personal information form and "Emotional Intelligence Rating Scale (EIRS)". The mean age of the students participating in the study was  $21.48 \pm 0.99$  (maximum:23, minimum:20) for university students. The EIRS mean scores of the students who participated in the study were  $133.27 \pm 16.33$ , mean scores for self-consciousness subscale  $27.36 \pm 3.90$ , and mean scores for managing emotions subscale  $26.18 \pm 3.71$ , mean scores for motivating emotions subscale  $26.73 \pm 4.22$ , mean scores for empathy subscale  $26.70 \pm 3.68$  and mean scores for social skill subscale  $26.31 \pm 3.59$ . According to EIRS, the emotional intelligence level of university students was found to be mediocre that needs "slight improvement". As a result of the study; it may be suggested to expand the structure of curriculum content in all basic nursing education institutions that will provide knowledge and skills specific to the affective field of nursing.