ATTITUDES TOWARDS OLD PEOPLE AMONG TURKISH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS


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One of the most significant factors impacting the preference of nurses to work with older people, and on the quality of care offered to them, is the attitude towards older people (Lookinland & Anson 1995, Pursey & Luker 1995, Wade 1999, McDowell et al. 1999, Courtney et al. 2000, Jacelon 2002).

The attitudes of nursing students have also been studied, as researchers believe that any student preconception and prejudice towards older people can affect their future career choice and determine their attitudes as healthcare personnel (Mezinskis & Purdon 1995, Stevens & Crouch 1995, Happell 2002, DeKeyser Ganz et al. 2006).

However, it has also been shown that student attitudes about elder care can be modified in a more positive direction by educators (McCracken et al. 1995, Matarase et al. 2008).
Social and cultural attitudes toward aging provide a framework for assessing one's own aging experiences as well as one's attitudes toward older people.

Prejudicial and negative attitudes toward older adults have been found to be widespread around the world. Whether these findings can be generalized to individuals from a Turkish culture are unknown.
Method

**Aim:** to assess attitudes toward old people and investigate relations between attitudes and socio-demographic variables.

**Sample:** 836 undergraduate university students in Istanbul, Turkey.

**Main instrument:** The Kogan’s Attitudes Toward Old People Scale (KAOP)

Abstract
The present paper reports on the development of a Likert scale for assessing attitudes toward old people and discusses empirical relations found between such attitudes and other attitudinal and personality variables.
Method

The KAOP is a 34 item tool with a six-point Likert-like scale format. The point descriptors range from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (6).

The range of scores for the KAOP is 34 to 204 with higher scores representing a more positive attitude.

Method

Validity & Reliability


RESULTS

Data were collected between February 1 and May 30 in 2013.

Sample: A total 836 nursing students
Mean age: 20.8
Female/male ratio: 85.8/14.2%

First Year: 39.6%
Second year: 30.1%
Third year: 24.5%
Fourth year: 5.7%
STUDENTS’ THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS OLD PEOPLE

➢ Aging is a life period that company with lot of diseases (89.6%)

➢ Elderly should live apart from family members (53.3%), with children (23.9%), with spouse or alone (20.6%), elderly institutions (2.2%).
STUDENTS’ THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS OLD PEOPLE

- More than half of students (52.8%) want to live with their grandparents.
- 65% had lived with grandparents
- 52.8% wish to live with their grandparents in future.
STUDENTS’ THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS OLD PEOPLE

- 32% had very close relationship with grandparents.
- 56% explained that they were often satisfied in their relationship with grandparents.
- 81.5% were satisfied spending some time with them.
STUDENTS' THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS OLD PEOPLE

- Mean KAOP score: 123.6 indicating that positively attitudes toward elderly.
- Students who often satisfied with their relationship with grandparents (P<0.01)
- who wished to live with grandparents (P<0.001)
- who satisfied spending some time with elderly (P<0.001)
- who had very close relationships with grandparents (P<0.01) tended to have more positive attitudes toward elderly.
No gender difference was found for attitudes towards elderly.
Conclusion

- Attitudes towards elderly among Turkish nursing students were positive.
- However, further exploration into exactly what lessens negative attitudes as well as what increases positive attitudes is critical to assisting educators in planning and evaluating interventions that target improving attitudes toward older adults.