



The nursing theses prepared in Turkey and characteristics of them

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Abstract

Aim: This study is intended to reveal characteristics of nursing theses in Turkey between the years of 2008-2013.
Methods: The study is conducted electronically scanning National Thesis Center between 11 January 2014 and 03 March 2014, the theses published between the years 2008-2013 are included in the research. **Results:** The nursing theses of each year are scanned separately in the National Thesis Center, 1461 theses can be accessed electronically. These are examined on the basis of the 4 main features as the years of preparation of the theses, the types of the theses, the topics of the theses and theses of the department of nursing. With examined nursing theses; it is seen that there is statistically significant relationship among the year of dissertations, the topics of the theses and of the theses made in the nursing department, **Conclusion:** Theses of the nursing still remain limited among the theses submitted to the National Center and theses are mainly for the master's theses.

Keywords: nursing, theses prepared, Turkey, characteristics.

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1. Introduction

Provision of health services has changed significantly in the last century. Changing and evolving health care system have an impact on people's basic health needs, thus on nursing education [5, 6].

Nursing as is one of the professional occupational groups has been identified as a profession helping to protect and improve the health of the individual, family and society; participating in the work of healing and rehabilitation in case of illness by International Council of Nursing-ICN [9, 12].

In nursing regulation [15], published on March 8, 2010 No. 27515 in Turkey; the nurse is a person who determines the needs of the individual, family and community which can be met by the health nursing interventions; plans, implements, evaluates and controls nursing care evidence-based within the scope of nursing diagnostic process in the framework of the needs identified (Ministry of Health, 2014).

Nursing may be persisted with the development of nursing discipline-specific knowledge [16]. Embrace of the nursing profession with the future is possible with through a process of scientification and knowledge accumulation which will clearly demonstrate professional values of the profession, practice, research, education and management and support the professional development [8]. One of the most important criteria for vocationalism of an occupation is created by the accumulated knowledge used in the practice of the profession [22, 13]. A profession having scientific base has a senior technical and a particular theory and if a profession has great accumulated knowledge, it is considered a greater business. A profession which has scientific structure expands information loads of it with continuous research [8].

A study conducting to find accuracy or truth of any matter is referred as a research. Scientific research is a study to respond to questions why, why, how, when, where [1]. It is known that research has many benefits such skills as increasing knowledge, making better decisions, reducing costs and the development of individual [18]. In creating nursing knowledge and theory, it is necessary to use the science research methods both used by natural science and social science thanks to the holistic approach in accordance with modern nursing concept [8].

Research in nursing appears to be a fairly recent development when compared to those in medicine and other health sciences [21]. Increasing knowledge with the results of research in nursing has an essential importance to accelerate in nursing professional development [17]. Usage of research results in the field of nursing practice provides to administer of nursing care in the best way, rapidly professionalization and more efficient conduct of nursing interventions [4]. While International Council of Nurses [ICN] (2007) is indicating that professional nursing can be performed with practice based on research, it emphasizes the need for research training for conducting research, development of research capacity, to assessment critically nurses' and students' research [18]. In Turkey, the first examples related to nursing research have emerged with the transition to university-level nursing education and the onset of postgraduate education in this field [3].

In the professionalization of nursing, it is important in the number of nurses who have graduated from master's and PhD programs and the characteristics of the theses. In addition, conveying the theses on the first, second and tertiary health care services to nursing practice in an effective way will contribute significantly to the development for the professionalization of the nursing profession. Based on these facts with the planned work, it is aimed to reveal the nursing theses and characteristics of them in Turkey between the years of 2008-2013.

2. Methods

The study is conducted electronically scanning National Thesis Center between 11 January 2014 and 03 March 2014, the theses published between the years 2008-2013 are included in the research. During the study National Thesis Center detailed search engine is used. By typing keywords of

"Nursing" in the subject area field, theses between the years 2008-2013 are scanned separately. It is found that there are 1780 registers by the scanning. 259 of them cannot be displayed as a result of problems arising from system. 60 theses aren't covered into the research depending on those theses aren't related to the nursing. The study was concluded in with 1461 theses that can be displayed electronically.

2.1. Data analysis

Data are evaluated by number and percentage calculations, besides Chi-Square Test of Independence is used in order to determine whether there is a statistically significant relationship between variables. Statistical analyses are made at a significance level of 0.05 with using the SPSS-17 package program.

3. Results

3.1. General Characteristics of Theses

22.1% of the theses can be accessed electronically belong 2010, 20.3% of them belong 2012. While 77.5% of theses constitute the master's theses, 22.5% of them constitute PhD theses. 30.2% of theses constitute the studies related to patient care and nursing practice, 13.6% of them constitute the studies planned to assess effects of different medical methods and maintenance applications. 29.1% of the studies are done in "Nursing Department", 12.0% of the studies are done in "Internal Diseases Nursing Department", 11.6% of the studies are done in "Surgical Nursing Master of Science", with close a percentage 11.2% of the studies are done in "Birth-women's Health and Nursing Department" (Table 1).

3.2. Characteristics of Thesis Type

While 18.9% of theses are PhD theses in 2008, 30.9% of theses in 2011, 26.0 % of theses and 26.1% of theses are PhD theses. Overall, it can be seen that 22.5% of theses are PhD theses. While 95.3% of the studies on employee health on health care are masters' theses, 93.8% of the studies aimed to determine the information, opinions and evaluations of patients' health issues and provided health services are master theses. Majority of the studies about using models or theories on Nursing (80.3%) and more than half of the studies to evaluate the effects of different medical methods and care practices are PhD theses (Table 2).

Almost all (96.0%) of theses registered to the central of the theses as nursing department consist of the master's thesis. When the thesis given in stating separately of the every department are examined, 39.8% of the theses given in by department of children's health and disease nursing, 36.0% of the theses given in by department of obstetrics-health and disease nursing, 33.0% of the theses given in by department of psychiatric nursing are PhD theses (Table 3).

4. Discussion

Postgraduate education programs are the programs implemented to improve the nursing science and practice on bachelor level [19]. Nursing research in Turkey has started with postgraduate education, for the first time in 1959 nursing research is conducted [20]. The first master's degree program in 1968, the first PhD program in 1972 has been opened at Hacettepe University [19].

Another meaningful step for research Association for the Advancement of Research in Nursing is established activities is being an organized structure in 1996, [21].

Viewed properties of the thesis surveyed by years; 18.9% of nursing theses in 2008 are PhD theses, 30.9% of theses in 2011, 26.0% of theses in 2012 of 26.1% of theses in 2013 are the PhD theses, considering the overall theses it is observed that 22.5% of them are PhD theses.

According to the results of statistical tests the type of theses change with years ($p < 0.05$) and there is an increase over the years in the PhD thesis.

Table 1. Characteristics of the Nursing Theses according to the Year, the Type, the Topic and the Department

Year of Thesis	N	%
2008	238	16,3
2009	276	18,9
2010	323	22,1
2011	110	7,5
2012	296	20,3
2013	218	14,9
Type of Thesis	N	%
Master	1133	77,5
PhD	328	22,5
Topic of Thesis	N	%
Patient care and nursing practice	441	30,2
Studies of Health Education	111	7,6
Studies of School Health	81	5,5
Employee Health of Healthcare Personnel	129	8,8
Nursing Model-Theory Applications	71	4,9
Scale Validity Reliability Studies	62	4,2
Studies Planned to Assess Effects of Different Medical Methods and Maintenance Applications	198	13,6
Studies for Detection of Patient Information, Feedback and Evaluation	48	3,3
Studies for Detection of Health Employee Information, Feedback and Evaluation	84	5,7
Studies done on Patient Safety	17	1,2
Employee Health Topics Towards Occupational Groups Other Than Health Employee	11	0,8
Studies for Detection of Relatives of Patients Information, Feedback and Evaluation	49	3,4
Studies for Detection of Other Occupational Group Information, Feedback and Evaluation	9	0,6
Studies made on Ethics	4	0,2
Other Topics	146	10,0
The Department of Nursing	N	%
Department of Public Health Nursing	128	8,8
Department of Psychiatric Nursing	103	7,0
Department of Child Health and Diseases Nursing	118	8,1
Department of Obstetrics Health and Diseases Nursing	164	11,2
Department of Principles of Nursing	114	7,8
Department of Nursing Management	52	3,6
Department of Internal Medicine Nursing	176	12,0
Department of Surgical Nursing	170	11,6
Department of Nursing	425	29,1
Department of Nursing Education	6	0,5
Other Departments	5	0,3
Total	1461	100,0

Table 2. Characteristics of Nursing Theses according to the Years

Year of Thesis	Type of Thesis					
	Master		PhD		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2008	193	81,1	45	18,9	238	100,0
2009	235	85,1	41	14,9	276	100,0
2010	249	77,1	74	22,9	323	100,0
2011	76	69,1	34	30,9	110	100,0
2012	219	74,0	77	26,0	296	100,0
2013	161	73,9	57	26,1	218	100,0
Total	1133	77,5	328	22,5	1461	100,0

$\chi^2=19,290$, $df=5$, $p=0,002$

Table 3. Characteristics of the Nursing Theses according to the Department of Nursing

Department of Nursing	Type of Theses					
	Master		PhD		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Department of Public Health Nursing	89	69,5	39	30,5	128	100,0
Department of Psychiatric Nursing	69	67,0	34	33,0	103	100,0
Department of Child Health and Nursing	71	60,2	47	39,8	118	100,0
Department of Obstetrics Health and Nursing	105	64,0	59	36,0	164	100,0
Department of Principles of Nursing	77	67,5	37	32,5	114	100,0
Department of Nursing Management	45	86,5	7	13,5	52	100,0
Department of Internal Medicine Nursing	124	70,5	52	29,5	176	100,0
Department of Surgical Nursing	134	78,8	36	21,2	170	100,0
Department of Nursing	408	96,0	17	4,0	425	100,0
Other Departments	11	100,0	-	-	11	100,0
Total	1133	77,5	328	22,5	1461	100,0

$\chi^2=1,495$, $df=9$, $p=0,000$

Kocaman (2009) [10] demonstrates that increasing demand on graduate program causes increasing the number of the master's and PhD programs and also records and graduates on these programs is continuously increasing in the number due to this reason. Unsal (2010) [19]. observes that 6.4% of nursing researches in are done in 1991-1996, 25.2% of them are done in 1997-2002, 68.4% of them are done between 2003 and 2008; over the years there is an increase with nursing researches in Turkey. Unsal and Kocaman's findings support our study.

PhD Education has an aim to raise manpower to reflect theoretical items of the nursing to course objectives, to increase occupation-specific knowledge, to move forward profession in any direction, to find solutions and add innovations to the problems through scientific approaches [14, 16]. When viewed of characteristics of the theses according to the topics, it has been found that 30.2% of the theses consist of the study with patient care and nursing practice. Scale reliability and validity studies remain only 4.2% and it is seen that 21.0% of these studies are composed of the PhD theses. Also a large majority of the studies about the use model or theory in nursing (80.3%), more than half of the

studies to assess the effects of treatments, different medical procedures and (54.5%) are PhD theses. As a result of the statistical analysis, the thesis type which vary according to the topics ($p < 0.05$) are observed.

Unsal (2010) [19] reveals that scale forms conducted in Turkey or developed or adapted to Turkey are used in 36.1% of nursing research, also he states that although the use of scales in the literature are very small in the 1990s, over the years, use of scale and the questionnaire with the validity and reliability is increased. Karatay and Emiroglu (2006) have determined that the 69.4% of studies placed in the journal of nursing research and development consists of descriptive study and the scale of the application process (28.0%) is in the second rank. Sengul et al (2013) [16] indicates that there are 48 studies based on theories / models by the nurses in Turkey between 1995 and 2010; 37 of them are postgraduate theses and 11 of them are articles and emphasizes that these findings indicate that there is limited use of research conducted on theories / models by nurses in Turkey.

Postgraduate education in nursing is noted that it develops conceptual skills, knowledge of the research process, research, oral and written presentation of research, evaluation and usage the results of research skills [11, 4]. Nurses with the acquisition of knowledge and skills in postgraduate training can be applied professional philosophy, scientific approach and the various care models in the clinical area; hold leading role to change in the service area of health professionals [2, 7].

Since 2009, the department of 12 masters and eight PhD programs are carried out within the department in Turkey [19]. PhD programs are being conducted in universities such as; Gulhane Military Medical Academy (GATA), Ege University, Istanbul University, Florence Nightingale, Marmara University, Ataturk University nursing schools [23, 24].

When viewed characteristics of theses surveyed by the department; it is seen that 29.1% of the studies are done in "Nursing Department", 12.0% of the studies are done in "Internal Diseases Nursing Department", 11.6% of the studies are done in "Surgical Nursing Master of Science", with close a percentage 11.2% of the studies are done in "Birth-women's Health and Nursing Department" (Table 4). Almost all (96.0%) of theses registered to the central of the theses as nursing department consist of the master's thesis. When the thesis given in stating separately of the every department are examined, it is seen that 39.8% of the theses given in by department of children's health and disease nursing, 36.0% of the theses given in by department of obstetrics-health and disease nursing, 33.0% of the theses given in by department of psychiatric nursing are PhD theses. As a result of the statistical analysis performed, it is observed that species of nursing thesis changed by the department ($p < 0.05$).

In Turkey the criteria for appointment as an Associate Professor and Professor in titles is high and these criteria is not met by many scholars because of these reasons; for the opening of the graduate program needed projected numbers of Associate Professor and Professor cannot be completed. Therefore, as a solution in some schools "Nursing department" is carried out one of the department being established masters and PhD programs, separate departments aren't carried out.

5. Conclusion

As a result of the research; it is seen that among thesis submitted to the National Thesis Center, thesis of nursing still remains with a limited number; thesis done in department of nursing constitutes mainly with master thesis. When looking at the nursing theses; it is seen that there is an increase with the number of the nursing thesis done and PhD thesis studies; however a great majority of the studies according to subject matter conduct descriptive studies to reveal a situation and the studies revealing that the effectiveness of different methods and techniques or applicability of nursing models and theories of are not in an adequate level.

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