

ORIGINAL PAPER

Ethical Problems Encountered by Nurses in Turkey

Emine Iyigun RN, Ph.D

Associate Professor, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara, Turkey

Sevinc Tastan RN, Ph.D,

Associate Professor, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara, Turkey

Hatice Ayhan RN, PhD,

Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara, Turkey

Halise Coskun RN, PhD

Assistant Professor, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara/Turkey

Meral Demiralp RN, PhD

Associate Professor, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara, Turkey

Correspondence: Sevinc Tastan, Associate Professor, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara, Turkey Email: stastan@gata.edu.tr

Abstract

Background: Nurses are having some ethic problems in giving quality care in health care system.

Objective: The aim of the study is to define the ethical problems nurses in Turkey encounter.

Methods: A total of 171 nurses, who are working in a military hospital in Turkey, participated in the study. The study is a descriptive one. The questionnaire form, which is used as a means for data acquisition, is developed by the researchers, as the result of a literature review. Questionnaire forms were filled up by the nurses, who accepted to participate in the study.

Results: Most of the nurses participating in the study stated that they realize they are facing ethical problems when conflicts on patient requests break out. The majority of the nurses stated that the greatest ethical problem met is the priority of using sources. Organ donation is shown as the ethical problem least encountered. Nurses answered the question regarding the resources used in resolving ethical problems as superiors in 75.27 % and as colleagues in 65.2%.

Conclusion: Definition of ethical problems nurses encounter during practice, will be guiding in determining what to do in order to put up with those problems during nurses' training and practices.

Key words: ethical problems; nurses; clinical practice.