

ORIGINAL PAPER

Nursing Students' Attitudes Towards Euthanasia: A Study In Yozgat, Turkey

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Abstract

Background and Purpose: In Turkish culture, death is an integral part of life. This study aims to examine perceptions and attitudes towards euthanasia among student nurses pursuing bachelor's degrees. As part of the study, interviews were conducted with 147 student nurses using a questionnaire.

Methodology: This descriptive study was conducted after obtaining the required permits, with the participation of 147 student nurses, who volunteered to participate.

Results: In all, 147 of the 173 questionnaires were obtained. A total of 84.4% of the participants (n:124) were female; 32.7% were 1st year students (n:48), 23.1% were 2nd year students (n:34), 20.4% were 3rd year students (n:30), and 23.8% were 4th year students (n:35). Question 1 asked student nurses to identify their sources of information about euthanasia prior to beginning their university education. A total of 70.7% of the students responded to this question (n:104) and 29.3% failed to respond (n:43). A total of 10.2% of the students said their main source of information on euthanasia was their family/relatives (n:15), 49.2% of the students said it was media (TV, newspaper, etc.), 31.3% said it was health workers (n:46), and 8.8% said it was their own research (n:13).

Conclusion: This study aimed to examine the views of student nurses on euthanasia. It seems to be the case that euthanasia and its related concepts will continue to be sources of ethical dilemmas. Future studies should make use of larger samples with similar characteristics, and conduct in-depth interviews, particularly with nurses employed in intensive care units.

Key Words: bioethics; nurse; end of life; euthanasia; attitudes; Turkish culture; BSN student