



Examination of Children's Nurse Perception by Picture Analysis Method

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ABSTRACT

Aim: This research is a projective study that examines the perceptions of children regarding the concept of "nursing" through the pictures they make.

Materials and Methods: The population of the study consisted of children aged 6-12, hospitalized in the pediatric health and diseases clinic of a university hospital. The sample of the study consisted of 20 children who were hospitalized between May- October 2019, agreed to participate in the study, and had communication and painting skills. The data were obtained with the questionnaire prepared by the researchers by scanning the literature and the pictures of the children. The data obtained from the questionnaire were analyzed using the SPSS 20 program. Content analysis method and semiotic approach were used in the analysis of the pictures.

Results: The mean age of the children included in the study was 9.05 ± 2.10 , and the average number of days they were hospitalized was 13.7 ± 3.12 . 60% of the children participating in the study are girls, 80% are hospitalized for an acute illness, and 65% have no previous hospitalization experience. 50% of the parents of the children participating in the research are primary school graduates, 90% of their mothers are housewives, and 30% of their fathers are farmers. 45% of the children live in the village. When the drawings made by the children are analyzed; It was determined that the children expressed the concept of the nurse in the pictures as needing support, communication problems, needing trust, anxiety and depressive features.

Conclusion and recommendations: In line with these results, nurses should be able to provide individualized care in order to better communicate with the individuals they care for, to reveal negative thoughts, fears and concerns, and to meet the needs of individuals. In addition, it is recommended that such studies be disseminated in order to determine the image of nursing and the expectations of individuals from nursing.

Keywords: Nurse perception, picture analysis method, children

INTRODUCTION

The nature of the nursing profession dates back to human existence. The concept of nursing, which was defined as a healer in the early ages, found its counterpart with the concept of witch in the medieval period, and for this reason, many women who gave care were killed with various tortures (Aksan 2013). The same profession has become a folk hero and savior during the current Covid-19 pandemic (Bassett, 2020). The concept of nursing, which has moved from witchcraft to folk heroism, has undergone many changes as can be seen. Many factors such as social problems, health policies, scientific and technological developments from the past to the present have affected the nursing profession in many dimensions. Accordingly, the perception of nursing in people also changes over time. For this reason, researching and discussing the reasons that change or affect the perception of nursing in people has been on the nursing agenda for a long time (Geduk 2018).

The International Council of Nursing (ICN), nursing encompasses the autonomous and collaborative care of sick or healthy individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, in all settings. Nursing includes health promotion, disease prevention and the care of sick, disabled and dying people (ICN, 2021). The American Nurses Association (ANA) has defined 21st century nursing as the glue that holds a patient's health care journey together. In addition, throughout the patient experience and wherever there is a person in need of care, nurses have emphasized that a patient is the person who accompanies him on his health care journey, working tirelessly to identify and protect the individual's needs (ANA 2021). Looking at the current definitions of nursing, it is seen that the nursing profession has come a long way especially in the professionalization process (Korkmaz 2011). In parallel with the development of the scientific basis of nursing, it is an expected result that the perception of nursing in people will change in a positive way. However, considering the effect of other factors that have an important role in people's perception, such as popular culture, how nursing is perceived has become a situation that varies (Akkaya, Darıcı 2019). It is recommended to use methods that give the person more freedom of answer instead of "yes" or "no" answers, such as the thoughts of individuals about a profession perception. According to Venger, the projective perspective based on picture analysis offers an absolute stimulus to which the individual can respond freely. The fact that the questions do not require a specific answer enables the answers given to be objective by activating the imaginations of individuals (Veger 2002). For this reason, it is thought that using projective tests to evaluate nursing perception will be effective. In the studies, it is emphasized that especially in the pictures made by children, they reflect emotions such as anger,

love, anxiety, interpersonal relationships and their inner world more (Uysal, Düzkaya, Bozkurt, trashlu 2018; Şen -Beytut , Bolişik , Solak, Seyfioğlu 2009). The data obtained by the projective method were given by the nurses; It will provide an opportunity to identify problems, establish appropriate communication and approach, determine the physical, social and psychological reactions of individuals and their perceptions of nursing, and review the approaches to individuals (Park 2004; Canbulat 2012; Güven 2018) . It is thought that explaining these expressions through pictures and evaluating these expressions will make an important contribution to the nursing literature on professional perception and values. For this reason, this study was carried out projectively in order to determine the perception of nursing in children by using the drawing method.

MATERIALS-METHODS

Type of Research

projective study that examines the perceptions of children in the 6-12 age group regarding the concept of "nursing" through the pictures they make .

Population and Sample of the Research

The population of the study consisted of children aged 6-12, hospitalized in the pediatric health and diseases clinic of a university hospital. Sample selection method was not used in the study. The sample of the study consisted of 20 children who were hospitalized between May and October 2019, agreed to participate in the study, and had communication and painting skills.

Data Collection Tools

were obtained with the "Question Form" prepared by the researchers by scanning the literature , and the "Pictures" drawn by the children using blank A4 paper and paints .

Questionnaire: In this form, there are 10 questions about the sociodemographic characteristics of the child and the parent. Parents answered the questions in the questionnaire. The response time for the questionnaire is approximately 10 minutes.

Picture: The children were asked to draw the things that came to their minds when the word "nurse" was mentioned, using the paints in their hands on the blank A4 paper . After the drawing was completed, the explanations and comments of the children about the picture they drew were noted on the back of the pictures by the researcher .

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The data obtained from the questionnaire were analyzed using the SPSS 20 package program. In the analysis of the descriptive data obtained from this form; number, percentage, mean, standard deviation and min-max determination tests were used.

In the analysis of the pictures, a semiotic approach was used to analyze the indicators in the pictures by using the content analysis method and non-linguistic communication forms to reach the concepts and relationships that could explain the collected data. In the picture analysis, firstly, the drawn pictures were numbered from 1 to 20. The picture analysis and the explanations noted on the back of the pictures are listed with these numbers in the electronic environment. In the research, two expert opinions were taken to determine the codes and themes.

Ethical Aspect of Research

Necessary permissions were obtained for the implementation of the research. During the data collection phase, all parents were informed about the purpose and importance of the research, and their verbal and written consents were obtained with an informed consent form. In the picture analysis, the names of the children were not used, the pictures were coded with numbers.

Limitations of the Research

The research is limited to children aged 6-12 years hospitalized in a clinic of a hospital in a city in Turkey.

In addition, although the image analysis method is used as an effective method, it has some limitations as in other measurement tools. In order to minimize these limitations, the pictures drawn, the questionnaires and the explanations for the pictures should be consistent. (This part can be included in the suggestions)

RESULTS

The mean age of the children included in the study was 9.05 ± 2.10 , and the average number of days they spent in the hospital was 13.7 ± 3.12 . Other sociodemographic characteristics of the children are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Sociodemographic Characteristics of Children

Sociodemographic Feature	Number	Percent %
Gender		
Girl	12	60
Male	8	40

Illness		
Acute	16	80
Chronic	4	20
Hospital Experience		
Yes	7	35
No	13	65
Being a Nurse in the Family		
Yes	5	25
No	15	75
Mother's Educational Status		
Illiterate	3	15
Primary school	10	50
Middle school	2	10
High school	4	20
University	1	5
Father's Educational Status		
Illiterate	1	5
Primary school	10	50
Middle school	2	10
High school	6	30
University	1	5
Mother's Profession		
Housewife	18	90
Officer	1	5
Nurse	1	5
Father's Profession		
Employee	5	25
Farmer	6	30
Officer	3	15
Self-employment	2	10
Engineer	1	5
Small business	2	10
Not working	1	5
Where She/He Lives		
Village	9	45
District	4	20
City	7	35
TOTAL	20	100

60% of the children participating in the study are girls, 80% are hospitalized due to an acute illness, and 65% have no previous hospitalization experience. 50% of the parents of the children participating in the research are primary school graduates, 90% of their mothers are housewives, and 30% of their fathers are farmers. 45% of children live in villages (Table 1).

Examples and analyzes of the "nurse"-themed pictures of 20 children in the 6-12 age group included in the scope of the research are given below.

The fact that the child did not scratch the doors and windows of the hospital in Picture 1 may be an indication that the child is bored in the hospital and has nowhere to go. If the child is sad, it may make us think that he is unhappy in the hospital. The child's emphasis on purple may be a sign that he needs the support of his parents.

The fact that the child drew the door and window of the hospital in Picture 2, the nurse and the child smiled, and the use of warm colors in the picture may indicate that the child has positive thoughts about the hospital.

In Picture 3, the child's being upset while the nurse is opening an intravenous line to the child may indicate that the child is suffering in the hospital. The fact that the child patient receiving treatment in bed is to the left of the nurse can be thought to represent the past and inactivity, that is, it is thought that there may be a negative situation related to the nurse. The child's use of red color may be a sign of danger.

The nurses' feet on the ground and the use of warm colors in Picture 4 may indicate that they have positive feelings towards the nurse. Predominant use of the color blue may be a sign that the child has good control over his emotions (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Picture Number 4

In Picture 5, the child's drawing of the hospital on the left side and never using the right side may indicate forgetfulness, longing or insignificance. The lack of doors and windows in the hospital may be a sign that there is no place to go and escape in the hospital. The child's emphasis on purple may be an indication of the need for parents.

The fact that the child drew the picture on the right side, the sun and clouds, and the use of warm colors in Picture 6 suggests positive feelings about the hospital, while the fact that the wheels of the ambulance do not touch the ground suggests negative feelings for his age.

fact that the child is an object between him and the nurse in Picture 7 suggests that he does not feel close to the nurse. The nurse's use of green and blue colors suggests that the child has self-confidence and can control his emotions.

The fact that the child draws the nurse on the left side of the page in Picture 8 suggests that he has negative feelings towards the nurse. Drawing the nurse's arms short suggests that there may be a communication problem between the nurse and the nurse (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Picture Number 8

The fact that the child wipes and redraws the hospital in Picture 9 suggests that there is an ambiguous situation between him and the hospital, that the nurse's feet do not touch the ground, there is a negative situation between the nurse and the nurse, and that the nurse's arms are short suggests that there is a communication problem between the nurse and the nurse.

The fact that the nurse's feet are not scratched in Figure 10 evokes a negative situation, and it also shows that the person's existence requires the support of others. However, the fact that he draws the majority of the picture on the left side may again evoke a negative situation. The door drawn on the right may be an exit door. The use of purple in the picture suggests that the mother and father need it, and the use of red color suggests that it feels dangerous.

In Picture 11, the child must have passed the stickman stage by age. However, while the concept of earth and sky should have been formed in the child, such a situation is not in question. More detailed analysis is needed on this situation. Brown is in need of protection and the color red can be a sign of danger.

The fact that the child erases and redraws the hospital environment in Picture 12 suggests that there is an ambiguity between him and the hospital. The use of vivid colors in the painting suggests that there is no negative situation with the nurses.

In Picture 13, the child's drawing on the hospital door and window suggests that the hospital is not scary for the child, but the fact that he draws people outside suggests that he does not want to enter the hospital. It is expected that the feet of human figures will be drawn on the ground, considering that the concept of the line of earth and sky is formed due to the age of the child. However, such is not the case. The frequent use of green indicates the need for a sense of security and the desire to be protected from danger (Figure 3).

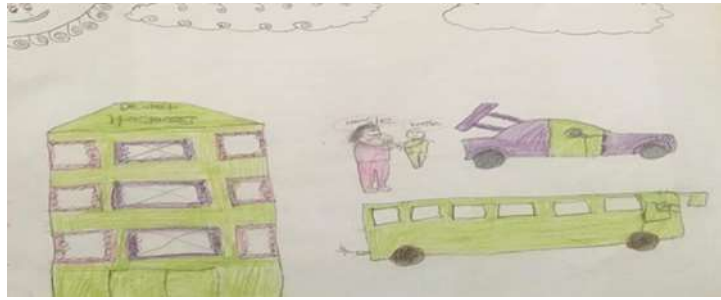


Figure 3. Picture Number 13

Picture 14 suggests that the child's erasing and redrawing the objects in the picture is a state of anxiety. The excessive use of red color symbolizes danger, and the excessive use of yellow color symbolizes the feeling of hatred and hostility towards the environment.

in Picture 15 symbolizes a past situation or inactivity with the nurse. Using the color green symbolizes the need to feel safe and the desire to be protected from dangers. It can be thought that the child's use of the color orange in a way that does not correspond to reality may experience different emotions such as hostility and sensitivity.

It can be thought that the child's drawing of the nurse to the left in the picture in Picture 16 symbolizes a past situation or inactivity with the nurse. Frequent use of dark colors may indicate depressive mood, shyness, cowardice, internal aggression, and a tendency to suppress impulses.

In Picture 17, it can be thought that the child's drawing of the nurse to the left in the picture symbolizes the past with the nurse and inactivity. Having an object between the nurse and the nurse may be a symbol of a lack of communication. It is thought that the use of the color red expresses a dangerous situation, the use of the color green expresses the need for a sense of security and the desire to be protected from danger.

In Picture 18, the child may show that she cares more about the female nurse by drawing it higher than the male nurse and doctor. It is thought that the child's use of vivid colors is expressed as a positive situation. In addition, the fact that he drew the doors and windows of the hospital and drew vivid colors makes us think that he felt safe (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Picture Number 18

The fact that the individuals drawn by the child in Picture 19 do not go into details is quite small for his age. A detailed assessment of this situation may be important. However, his heavy use of dark colors may express feelings such as depressive mood, shyness, cowardice, internal aggression, and a tendency to suppress impulses.

In Picture 20, the child used the left side while drawing the picture and never used the right side. This can express oblivion, longing, and insignificance. The fact that the ear is not scratched when it should be visible may indicate that there are problems in social relations or insufficient communication with the environment. The fact that the mouth is not drawn may indicate a negative attitude, a desire for isolation and avoidance. The use of red color suggests the need for attention from the environment. In addition, depressive mood with the use of black color in general; It can be thought that there may be shyness, cowardice, internal aggression, and a tendency to suppress impulses.

DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from this study were evaluated as a result of the analysis of the pictures drawn by the children, and their positive and negative perceptions about the nurse.

Children aged 6-12 years were included in this study. In the literature, it is stated that children in this age group have the ability to convey what they see around them, and can accurately convey depth, movement and colors. The drawing method, which is accepted as a projective method, is used in many areas to evaluate children's emotions and perceptions (Şen Beyrut et al. 2009; Malchiodi, 2013).

According to the results of this evaluation, most of the children between the ages of 6-12 drew the nurse as a female figure. In similar studies, it was determined that more than half of the participants in the study drew the nurse as a woman (Canbulat , Kurt, Balcı, Kara 2012; Uysal, Düzkaya , Bozkurt, trashlu 2018). The reason for this can be thought to be due to the fact that the majority of working nurses are women, although male students have been included in nursing education since 2007. It is thought that as the number of male members in nursing increases day by day, the gender-based prejudices of the perception of nursing and the anxiety of men about this profession will decrease (Taşcı 2007; Kaya, Turan, Öztürk 2011). In a picture analysis in this study, it was concluded that the female nurse was given more importance (Picture 18). This may be an indication of positive experiences with female nurses, as well as an indication of negative prejudices about male nurses.

The higher education level of the parents enables them to communicate better with the children, the child is hospitalized; It is thought that it is an important factor that can inform children about the disease and the doctor/nurse and thus reduce their fear and acceptance of hospitalization (Gündüz et al. 2016). In addition, the ability to convey feelings and thoughts through painting is expected to be directly proportional to the education level of the parents. Studies have shown that high education levels of parents reduce the fear of hospital in children (Çavuşoğlu 2008; Başbakkal et al. 2010; Ataman 2006). In this study, the use of vivid colors in the picture (Picture 12) drawn by the child, whose parents are both university graduates, suggests that there is no negative situation with the nurses.

In a study examining children's opinions about the nurse, children experienced emotions such as fear, excitement, embarrassment and curiosity towards the nurse and the hospital. Children stated that nursing is a professional profession. However, it has been stated that there are children who define nurses as assistant doctors (Akkavak, Karabudak 2019). In this study, it was determined that most of the children's paintings reflect their negative feelings about the hospital and the nurse. These feelings are mostly feeling in danger, needing trust and support, and communication problems (Picture 1,3,5,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,17,20).

Unal et al. (2002) 19 found that 22% of children reported that nurses gave injections (Ünal, Akbayrak , Uluğ 2002) . The injection procedure for hospitalized children is painful and ranks as one of the frightening painful and frightening procedures. In this study, it is thought that children's use of dark colors in their paintings reflects the feeling of fear (Picture 16, Picture 20). It is a known fact that presenting the nurse as a threat to scare the child as the person who gives the injection has a negative effect on children's perception of nurses.

In this study, it was determined that 68.75% of children with acute disease and all children with chronic diseases perceived nursing negatively. In a study, no significant difference was found between the two groups in terms of nursing perception (Uysal, Düzkaya, Bozkurt, trashlu 2018) . In a similar study, when the hospital image perceived by the children from the pictures they drew was examined; It was determined that 61.5% of children with chronic diseases, 58.8% of children with acute diseases and 58.1% of healthy children perceived the hospital negatively in the pictures they drew (Şen Beytut et al. 2009). It can be thought that the fact that children with chronic diseases use negative figures more in their paintings than children with acute diseases may be due to their previous negative experiences.

In this study, drawing the nurse's arms short (Picture 8, Picture 9) shows that there is a communication problem with the nurse, drawing objects between the child and the nurse shows a communication breakdown (Picture 17), and the ear is not drawn (Picture 20) indicates a lack of communication. According to these results, it can be said that nurses should strengthen communication with children in order to reduce the stress experienced by hospitalized children. In a study examining the communication skills of nurses, it was determined that as the education and working experience of nurses increased, their communication skills also increased, and it was emphasized that as communication skills increased, patient satisfaction also increased, effective care could be provided and the image of the nursing profession was positively affected (Kumcagiz et al. 2011). In addition, it was determined that not all of the children describing a communication breakdown in their paintings had any previous hospitalization experience. For this reason, it can be said that children are not informed about the hospital, disease and treatment and they feel uncomfortable about it. Informing not only children but also adults about the procedures is an application that will reduce fear and anxiety (Ertem, Yava and Demirkılıç 2013).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With the drawing method, which is an easy and enjoyable method, children's expectations from nurses and/or care, their fears and concerns about care and treatment can be determined. In this study, they conveyed pictures of children especially danger, need for support and trust, and communication problems. In this regard, it can be recommended that nurses develop their communication skills more, encourage the individuals they care for to talk about their fears and anxieties, and provide individual care to understand the needs of the individuals and to meet these needs.

In this study, positive or negative general feelings and thoughts about nursing were determined by children's drawing method. However, more detailed advanced analysis methods can be used about children's negative feelings and thoughts. In addition, more specific studies specific to nursing practices or clinical areas can be planned.

It is recommended that such studies be disseminated in order to determine the image of nursing and the expectations of individuals from nursing and to plan effective and individual care in line with these expectations.

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