Eurasian Journal of Educational Research, Issue 66, 2016, 71-86

A Multivariate Examination of the Child-Abuse Potential of Parents with Children Aged 0-6

Zeynep CETIN*
Miray OZOZEN DANACI**

Suggested Citation:

Cetin, Z., Ozozen-Danaci, M. (2016). A multivariate examination of the child-abuse potential of parents with children aged 0-6.*Eurasian Journal of Educational Research*, 66, 71-86, http://dx.doi.org/10.14689/ejer.2016.66.4

Abstract

Problem Statement: Child abuse, defined by the World Health Organization as "intentional or unintentional behavior by adults, society, or a country with negative consequences for the health and physical development of the child," is a social problem frequently encountered in all cultures and societies. It is need to this study because of parents in an important role about child abuse.

Purpose of the Study: There are many studies on child abuse, and this article aims to contribute to the efforts of preventing such abuse by focusing on parents' abusive tendencies and examining the child abuse potential of parents using a number of variables.

Method: Parents with children ages birth to six who reside in the province of Duzce constitute the population of this study. The sample group of the study consists of a total of 158 parents with children ages 0 to 6 and residing in the city center of Duzce, 96 of them mothers and 62 fathers. The child-abuse potential of the parents is the dependent variable of the study, while socio-demographic characteristics of the families and the children are the independent variables. Data collection instruments of the study are the Parents and Children Demographic Characteristics Form developed by the researchers, and the Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI) developed by Milner (1976) and adapted to Turkish by Omer & Sucuoglu (1994) with sufficient levels of reliability and validity.

* Corresponding author: Assoc. Prof. Dr., Hacettepe University, Faculty of Healthy Sciences, Ankara, zcetin@hacettepe.edu.tr

** Lecturer. Duzce University, Healthy Services Vocational School, Duzce, mirayozozen@hotmail.com

Findings and Results: It was found that child abuse potentials of the parents varied significantly by the number of residents in the house, by the place of residence, and by the income of the parents. Another finding was that the child-abuse potential of parents did not vary by gender and age.

Conclusion and Recommendations: This study found that as the number of children increases, so does the child-abuse potential of parents. Therefore, in training and consultation sessions on family planning, the issue should also be discussed from the perspective of child abuse.

Keywords: Children, child abuse, mother, father.

Introduction

Child abuse is a social problem frequently encountered in all cultures and societies. There are many studies on child abuse, and this article aims to contribute to the efforts of preventing such abuse by focusing on their mother and fathers' abusive tendencies and examining the child abuse potential of parents using a number of variables.

Child abuse is a serious problem with complex causes and tragic consequences, and with medical, legal, developmental, and psycho-social aspects (Powers, Fani, Cross, Ressler, Bradley, 2016; Kairys et al., 2002; Polar, 2002; Ziyalar, 1999). Understanding the factors leading to abuse and its consequences on child development is crucial for scholarship on human development (Yilmaz & Irmak, 2008). Parents, in particular, sometimes intentionally and sometimes without realizing, may engage in behavior such as violence or neglect that would have negative consequences for the development of their children. As a result, efforts to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse and neglect are needed (Bahar, Savas, Bahar, 2009).According to this, it is aimed to explicate to children's parents about the dangers of abuse in the first place.

Background

A cursory look at the history of societies shows that maltreatment of children is a phenomenon as old as the history of humanity. It is known that in ancient times, many cultures treated children as property and subjected them to various forms of maltreatment. Examples included infanticide, the killing of children soon after they were born usually by their fathers, enslavement of children, sacrificial killing of children, and forced child slavery (Kozcu, 1991). In ancient Athens, the practice of infanticide persisted even in Aristotle's lifetime. In Rome, the power of the patriarch of the family to leave, desert, sell, punish, whip, and even kill his children was recognized by law (Akyuz, 2013). No other authority could interfere with the practice of this power (Karadeniz, 1974). In countries such as China, India, Mexico, and Peru,

throwing newborns into rivers was a common ritual of sacrifice. A doctor who lived in Ephesus in 2nd century A.D. recommended in his manuscript *Gynecology* that premature babies or babies born with deformities be killed (Kozcu, 1991).

Child abuse is defined in the literature as non-accidental behaviors that result in harm to the physical or mental health of children or prevent their cognitive, affective, social, or moral development (Gurkaynak & Gozutok, 1998; Kozcu, 1991; Lynch, 1991; Oral et al., 2001). Abuse may have religious, moral, technological, social, or cultural aspects, and factors related to the children themselves, their parents, or the socio-economic status of the family may, in isolation or in interaction with one another, facilitate abuse. Because child abuse usually remains hidden, but creates long-term, permanent, and multi-faceted problems for the victim and society, and because it is an insult to human dignity, a multi-disciplinary approach is required for the study of child abuse (Klassen, Chirico, Deborah, O'Leary, Cairney, Wade, 2016; Yalcin, 2011). Thus, over the past 30 years, researchers and practitioners have developed a better understanding of the effects of trauma (Hendricks, Conradi, & Wilson, 2011; Benedini, Fagan, Gibson, 2016).Owing to these complex and difficult to comprehend dimensions, child abuse examinings should proceed with usual methods.

Types of Child Abuse and Neglect

Abuse, which is a form of brazen and stark exploitation, has four dimensions: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and abuse by neglect. These dimensions are presented below:

1. Physical abuse is the most common type of abuse and the easiest to detect. In a general sense, physical abuse can be defined as "non-accidental injury" in children, or "abuse that results in physical bodily harm such as fractures, burns, or cuts." The most common form of this abuse is the beating of children, and it also includes forms of punishment ranging from slapping a child in the face to the use of various objects to strike a child. Physical abuse is characterized by non-accidental injuries or bruises on children.

2. Emotional abuse does not involve concrete physical symptoms, as is usually the case in physical and sexual abuse, and may be perpetrated in isolation as well as accompanying other forms of abuse (Polat, 2007; Polat, 2002).

3. Sexual abuse is a complex phenomenon, and different considerations come into play from legal, social, or psychological perspectives. In addition, collecting information on sexual abuse is difficult because sexual advances to children are universally condemned as disgusting, filthy, evil, and forbidden (Gunce, 1991).

4. Child neglect is defined as "the failure of caregivers to carry out their responsibilities toward the child, and neglecting the physical or emotional needs of the child" (cited by Turk, 2010).

In contemporary society, children still lose their lives and are left disabled or malnourished due to lack of nutrition, care, or supervision. Some of them never receive a proper education. Some children are physically and emotionally bruised due to maltreatment by their parents or by the social institutions that are responsible for caring for them. Some children are subjected to sexual attacks by adults; others are forced to work in difficult conditions at a very early age; and some are even bought and sold as property (Gokler, 2006; Hillis, Mercy, Amobi, Kres, 2016). But in general, it is known that child abuse is mostly seen in children's families.

Weltz, Armelia, Ford and Tennen (2016) stated in a study that 42.3% of the participants reported some level of physical abuse/family violence, 70.7% reported some level of physical and/or emotional neglect, 94% reported some level of emotional abuse, and 7.3% reported sexual abuse in their family. Similarly, many relationships remained significant, independent of the experience of other forms of child maltreatment and a family history of dysfunction (Taillieua, Brownridge, Sareen, Afifi, 2016).

Because child abuse can also take place within the family, this study aims to focus on abuse by parents and to raise societal awareness by shedding light on the issue. The research problem of this study allows the identification of the demographic variables that are associated with higher and lower levels of child-abuse potential among parents. The study, then, provides an assessment of the findings. The study's sub-problems are determining this identification in terms of socio-demographic qualities.

Methods

Research Design

The research design of this study is based on the use of a survey (Karasar, 2005). According to Karasar (2009), surveys are a research method that provides a description of a past or present phenomenon. In surveys, a description of the phenomena under study is provided. This study, which employs different variables, aims to describe the current child-abuse potential of parents.

Research Sample

For the purpose of representing the universe, the population of this study was parents with children ages 0–6 who resided in the city center of the province of Duzce during the spring semester of the 2014–2015 academic year. The sample group consisted of a total of 158 parents, 92 of them mothers and 66 of them fathers.

Research Instrument and Procedure

This study used the Parents and Children Demographic Characteristics Form developed by the researcher, and the Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI). Detailed information about the data collection instruments used in the study is provided below.

Parents and Children Demographic Characteristics Form. The researcher created the Parents and Children Demographic Characteristics Form in order to collect data on the variables used in the study; it contained items on both parents and children. It asked questions on the age, gender, number of siblings, and place of residence of the children, and the age, gender, level of education, and socioeconomic status of the parents.

Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI). The Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI) was developed by Joel S. Milner (1976), who described it in "An Inventory for the Identification of Child Abusers," an article co-authored by Milner and Wimberley (1979). They developed CAPI as an assessment tool to be used by children's legal protection centers in their investigations and decisions. CAPI was first adapted for use in Turkey by Oner and Sucuoglu (1994). More than 700 articles and books were consulted in the development of CAPI, and it identified common traits shared by child abusers. Because child abuse is such a comprehensive concept and includes such a wide range of behavioral disorders, the inventory was narrowed down to be used only in physical abuse cases (Kutsal, 2004). CAPI consists of 160 questions designed to estimate family risk when there is a suspicion of physical child abuse. Countless validity and reliability studies were conducted on the psychometric qualities of CAPI (Kutsal, 2004; Milner, 1994; Oner & Sucuoglu, 1994; Pruit & Erickson, 1985; Robertson & Milner, 1985). CAPI was also administered to groups of teachers by Piskin (2003).

Data Analysis

Researchers informed participants of the purposes and significance of the study prior to collecting data. The results came from parents who volunteered to fill out the CAPI forms and resided in the province of Duzce. Researchers eliminated those forms that they observed were completed by parents without reading them, forms containing contradictory answers to similar questions, and forms that gave rise to suspicions about the responders' honesty (by providing nice and proper answers only) The Mann-Whitney U test and the Kruskal-Wallis H test were used for statistical analysis of the data.

Results

The average scores reported in Table 1 show that the differences between the abuse-potential scores of parents from different age groups are not statistically significant (χ 2=.492, p >0.05). When the mean ranks of the abuse-potential scores of the parents from different age groups are examined, it can be seen that parents in the 36–45 age group have the highest scores (X=100.09), followed by parents in the group age 45 and older (X=97.35) and parents in the 26–35 group (X = 96.62). The lowest score intervals for abuse potential were recorded for parents in the 18–25 age group, which may be related to their status as new parents who are still in the process of adapting to their roles. The observation that the highest abuse-potential scores were received by parents in the 36–45 age group may be associated with the burdens of life and concerns about livelihood that are felt more intensely at this age.

Table 1.

Findings on the Abuse-Potential Scores of Parents by Age

Age	*N*	*Mean Rank*	*sd*	*χ2*	*p*
18–25	58	97.35			
26–35	10	96.62	3	.492	.596
36–45	11	100.09			
Over 45	4	95.78			
Total	83				

p >0.05

Table 2 shows that parents aged 45 or older received the lowest abuse-potential scores, which can be indicative of the older parents developing a mellower and more tolerant attitude based on their increasing age.

Data reported in Table 2 show that parents' abuse-potential scores do not vary significantly by gender (U = 5081.00; p>0.05). Although the difference between fathers' and mothers' abuse-potential scores is not significant, fathers received slightly higher scores (X =98.05) compared to mothers (X = 96.87).

Table 2.

Results of the Mann-Whitney U test Concerning the Differences in Abuse-Potential Scores of Parents by Gender

Gender	*n*	*Mean Rank*	*Sum of Ranks*	*U*	*p*
Female	53	96.59	9957.50		
Male	31	98.89	10587.40	5081.00	.485
Total	83				

p >0.05

Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H test reported in Table 3 show that parents' abuse-potential scores vary significantly by the number of residents in the home (χ 2=7.112, p <0.05). The multiple comparison test conducted to identify which of the groups differ significantly from one another showed that parents with six or more residents in their houses had significantly higher abuse-potential scores (X=125.61) compared to parents with two to three residents in their home (X 58.94).

Parents living in houses with six or more residents received the highest scores for abuse potential (X = 125.61), followed by parents living in houses with four or five residents (X =97.85), followed by parents living in houses with two to three residents (X = 58.94), who received the lowest abuse- potential scores.

Table 3.

Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test Concerning the Differences in Abuse-Potential Scores of Parents by the Number of Residents in the House

Number of Residents	n	Mean Ranks	sd	χ2	*p*	Significant F
2–3	27	58.94				3
4–5	42	97.85	2	7.112	.028*	
6 and more	14	125.61				1
Total	83					(1-3)

*p <0.05

Data reported in Table 4 show that the differences between the abuse-potential scores of parents with different places of residence are statistically significant (χ2= 11.026, p<0.05). Multiple comparison tests conducted to identify which of the groups differ significantly from one another showed that parents who spent most of their lives in small towns and villages had abuse-potential scores (X =114.03) that were significantly higher than the abuse-potential scores of parents who spent most of their lives in metropolises (X = 73.32), in provinces (X= 74.56), and in districts (X=77.67). This difference can be explained by the fact that parents living in small towns and villages adopt a more traditional approach to their childrearing.

Table 4.

Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test Concerning the Differences in Abuse-Potential Scores of Parents by Place of Residence

Place of Residence	N	Mean Ranks	sd	χ2	p	Significant F.
Metropolis	5	73.32				
Province	13	74.56				
District	57	77.67	4	11.026	.003*	4 4
Town/ Village	8	114.03				(1-4)
Total	83					

*p <0.05

Table 5 reports the abuse-potential scores of parents by socio-economic status. The data show that the differences between the abuse-potential scores of parents from different income groups are statistically significant (p<0.05). The multiple comparison test showed that the abuse-potential scores of parents from low-income families (X= 156.51) are significantly higher compared to the abuse-potential scores of parents from lower-middle income families (X = 98.46), parents from upper-middle income families (X = 94.67), and parents from high-income families (X = 88.34).

Table 5.

Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test Concerning the Differences in Abuse-Potential Scores of Parents by Income

Monthly Income	n	Mean Ranks	d	χ2	*p*	Significant F.
Minimum Wage or less (Low)	58	156.51				
1000–2500 TL (Lower-Middle)	17	98.46				1
2500–4000 TL (Upper-Middle)	4	94.67	3	9.817	.042*	1
4000 TL or more (High)	4	88.34				1
Total	83					(1 – 2,3,4)

*p <0.05

Discussion and Conclusion

Although there are studies in the literature examining the child-abuse potential of parents, this study differs from them by focusing on the question of which demographic variables are associated with higher levels of abuse potential, which is an important factor to consider in preventing abuse.

Corby (2006) indicates that if it is determined which people are under risk, measures can be taken. While the priority is to prevent parents' child abuse and neglect tendency from occurring, it is equally significant to respond to those children and parents who have experienced child abuse and neglect when they were children.

The major finding of the study is that the child-abuse potential of parents does not vary significantly by age or gender, but varies significantly by the number of residents in the house, income, and place of residence.

Although the difference between the two scores is not statistically significant, it could be argued that the higher scores received by fathers compared to those received by mothers are indicative of the firm, authoritarian, and heavy-handed image associated with the role of father in the patriarchal structure of the Turkish family.

The observation that parents living in homes with six or more residents have higher abuse-potential scores compared to parents living in homes with two to three residents can be explained by the fact that as the number of children and family members increase, the amount of affection, attention, and interest parents can display toward their children decreases. Similarly as the number of family members increase, so do the number of responsibilities at home and burdens of life, which lead to higher levels of stress.

Other studies also find that an increase in the number of children in the family is accompanied by a parallel increase in the frequency of punishment and a decrease in the amount of love displayed, whereas child abuse is seen more frequently in one-child families compared to families with more children (Yalcin, 2011; Bilir et al., 1991; Guneysu, 1982).

Similar to the findings of this study, Ozdemir (1989), Sozduyar (1989), and Tercan (1995) found that parents of low socio-economic status have higher levels of abuse potential, that the child-abuse potential of the parents declines as their socio-economic status improves, that behaviors of child abuse and neglect are more frequent among parents of low socio-economic status, and that the relationship between stress and tension on the one hand and child abuse on the other is stronger than the relationship between child abuse and socio-economic status.

The multiple comparison test showed that parents with six or more residents in their houses had significantly higher abuse-potential scores compared to parents with two to three residents in their home and that the abuse-potential scores of parents from low-income families are significantly higher compared to the abuse-potential scores of parents from lower-middle income families, parents from upper-middle income families, and parents from high-income families. Additionally, parents who spent most of their lives in small towns and villages had abuse-potential scores that were significantly higher than the abuse-potential scores of parents who

spent most of their lives in metropolises, provinces, and districts. All of these findings were also found in similar studies (Lang, Gartstein, Rodges & Lebeck, 2010; Machado et.al., 2007; Herrenkohl & Herrenkohl, 2007; Gratz & Chapman, 2007; UNICEF, 2006; Sicher, Lewis, Sargent, et al. 2000).

Socialist and Marxist approaches maintain that such social problems are the product of a capitalist economic system (Inci, 2010). Moreover, Icli (1992) indicates in his studies that not only the fact of abuse, but also all crimes increase as socio-economic state worsens and the more rural the area. Studies conducted in the world and in our country, economic conditions and factors are denied that led to criminal acts occurs by a lot of people among the other factors (Inci, 2010).

The following recommendations are made on the basis of all these findings:

It is imperative that a multidisciplinary approach be adopted for the identification and prevention of child abuse. In addition to measures taken and treatment efforts made in the post-abuse stage, attention needs to be paid to the factors leading to child abuse in the first place. These factors include: families with a large number of children, families of low socio-economic status, and families residing in small towns and villages. They should be the focus of educational efforts, and these families should be periodically monitored.

Felitti & Anda (2009) and Messman-Morre, Walsh, & DiLillo (2010) found some remarkable findings showing that victims of child sexual abuse also are at a higher risk for rape in adulthood, and the rate of risk increases according to the severity of the child sexual abuse experiences. It should be noted in this regard that child abuse causes more levels of child abuse to occur again.

The place where children are at most risk is at home with their families. Efforts to prevent child abuse should concentrate on families of low socio-economic status. Laskey & Hatton (2009) reported in their study that hard discipline methods lead to child abuse. Therefore, families should be educated on child psychology and behavior and should be trained in alternative disciplinary methods to avoid physical punishment. Since 61% of all deaths about children due to child abuse are preventable, families should be given legal briefings, and home visits should be expanded.

One study showed that children who experienced neglect were at an increased risk for diabetes and poorer lung functioning, while physical abuse was shown to increase the risk for diabetes and malnutrition (Widom, Czaja, Bentley, & Johnson, 2012). Similarly a longitudinal study found that children who experienced neglect had body mass indices that grew at significantly faster rates compared to children who had not experienced neglect (Shin & Miller, 2012). Thus, the authorities should absolutely follow children such as weakness.

This study found that as the number of children in a family increases, so does the child-abuse potential of the parents. Therefore, in training and consultation sessions on family planning, the issue should also be discussed from the perspective of child abuse. Parents should be taught that every child needs special care and attention, and it is the right of a child that these needs are met.

References

Bahar, G., Savas, H., & Bahar, A. (2009). Child abuse and neglect: The revision. *Journal of Firat Health Services,* 4(12), 51-65.

Benedini, K.M., Fagan, A.A., & Gibson, C.L. (2016). The cycle of victimization: The relationship between childhood maltreatment and adolescent peer victimization. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 59, 111-121.

Bilir, S., Meziyet Ari, Donmez, N., Atik, B., & San, P. (1991). 16,100 children between the ages of 4 -12, a study dealing with traumatic situations. *Protect the Children from Mistreatment I. National Congress*, (pp. 45-53). Ankara: Ankara University.

Corby, B. (2006). *Child abuse: Towards a konowledge base.* 3rd Ed. Open University Press, New York.

Gokler, R. (2006). The overview of child abuse and neglect in education. *The Journal of Turkey Social Researches,* 10(3), 47-76.

Gratz, K.L., & Chapman, A.L. (2007). The role of emotional responding and childhood maltreatment in the development and maintenance of deliberate self-harm among male undergraduates. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 8, 1-14.

Gunce, G. (1991). Child sexual abuse. Protection Of Children From ll-Treatment 1. National Congress, Ankara: Gozde Repro Ofset, pp. 120-127.

Guneysu, S. (1982). *Against the children of parental attitudes and behavior problems in children.* Unpublished Master Thesis, Hacettepe University, Social Sciences Institute, Ankara.

Gurkaynak, I., & Gozutok, D. (1998). *For being citizen*. Umut League, Istanbul, pp.75-76.

Hendricks, A., Conradi, L., & Wilson, C. (2011). Creating trauma-informed child welfare systems using a community assessment process. *Child Welfare*, 90(6), 187-205.

Herrenkohl, T.I., & Herrenkohl, R.C. (2007). Examining the overlaps and prediction of multiple forms of child maltreatment, stressors and socioeconomic status: A longitudinal analysis of youth outcomes. *Journal of Family Violence*, 22, 553-562.

Hillis, H., Mercy, J., Amobi, A., Kress, H. (2016). Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: A systematic review and minimum estimates. *Pediatrics*, 137(3), 1-13.

Inci, Y. (2010). *Socio-culturel and economic dimensions of children sexual abuse and misuse*. Ph.D. Thesis, Ankara University, Social Sciences Institute, Ankara.

Kairys S.W., Alexander, R.C., Block, R.W. et al. (2002). When do inflicted skin injuries constitute child abuse?. *Pediatrics*, 110, 644-645.

Klassen, S.A., Chirico, D., Deborah D., O'Leary, D.D., Cairney, J., & Wade, T.J., (2016). Linking systemic arterial stiffness among adolescents to adverse childhood experiences. *Child Abuse & Neglect,* 56, 1-10.

Kozcu, S. (1991). *Child abuse and neglect*. Family Writings 3. Ministry and Research Institute Science Series., 5. Edition, 379-390.

Lang, A.J., Gartstein, M.A., Rodges, C.S., & Lebeck, M.M. (2010). The impact of maternal childhood abuse on parenting and infant temperament. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 23, 100-110.

Laskey, B. J., Hatton C.S. (2009). *Parental discipline behaviours and beliefs about their child: Associations with child internalizing and mediation relationships.* Department of Clinical Psychology, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Salford, Uk.

Lynch, M. (1991). *Child abuse and neglect*. Paper presented at Protect the Children from Mistreatment 1. National Congress, Gozde Repro Ofset, pp.37-44.

Machado, C., Goncalves, M., Matas, M., & Dias, A.R. (2007). Child and partner abuse: Self-reported prevalence and attitudes in the North of Portugal. *Child Abuse & Neglect,* 31, 657-670.

Oner, U., & Sucuoglu, B. (1994). Abuse of mentally handicapped children. *The Journal of Psychiatry Psychology Psychopharmacology (3P),* 2(4), 316-328.

Oral, R., Can, D., Kaplan, S., Polat, S., Ateş, N., Cetin, G. et al. (2001). Child abuse in Turkey: An experience in overcome denial and a description of 50 cases. *Child Abuse Neglect*, 25, 279-290.

Ozdemir, A. S. (1989). *The physical aspects of child abuse and neglect. The comparison of physical abuse and neglect of parents on middle school students in the lower and upper socio-economic levels in Ankara*. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Hacettepe University Social Sciences Institute, Ankara.

Polat, O. (2002). *Child and violence.* Istanbul: Der Publishing, pp. 85-97.

Polat, O. (2007). *Emotional abuse, child abuse with all aspects*: Definitions 1, (Der. Oguz Polat) Law Books Series:782, Secker Publishing Industry and Trade Inc, Ankara, pp. 228-230.

Powers, A., Fana, N., Cross, D., Ressler, K.J., & Bradley, B. (2016). Childhood trauma, PTSD, and psychosis: Findings from a highly traumatized, minority sample. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 58, 111-118.

Shin, S., & Miller, D. (2012). A longitudinal examination of childhood maltreatment and adolescent obesity: Results from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (AddHealth) study. *Child Abuse & Neglect,* 36(2), 84–94.

Sicher P, Lewis O, Sargent J, et al. (2000). Developing child abuse prevention, identification and treatment systems in eastern Europe. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent*, 39, 660-667.

Sozduyar, H. (1989). *Examination of views of teachers about child abuse who are working at primary and secondary schools*. Master Thesis, Ege University Social Sciences Institute, Izmir.

Taillieua, T., Brownridge, D., Sareen, J., & Afifi, T. (2016). Childhood emotional maltreatment and mental disorders: Results from a nationally representative adult sample from the United States. *Child Abuse & Neglect,* 59, 1-12.

Tercan, M. (1995). *Physical abuse and neglect of child by parents.* Unpublished Master's Thesis, Ankara University Social Sciences Institute, Ankara.

UNICEF (2006). *Behind closed doors the impact of domestic violence on children.* Child Protection Section Programme Division, New York, pp. 3-14.

Weltz, S.M., Armelia, S., Ford, J.D., & Tennen, H. (2016). A daily process examination of the relationship between childhood trauma and stress-reactivity. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 60, 1-9.

Widom, C., Czaja, S., Bentley, T., & Johnson, M. (2012). A prospective investigation of physical health outcomes in abused and neglected children: New findings from a 30 year follow-up. *American Journal of Public Health,* 102(6), 1,135–1,144.

Yalcin, N. (2011). *Child abuse in Turkey and solution suggestions.* Graduate Project, T.C. Beykent University, Social Sciences Institute, Operation Management Department, Istanbul.

Yilmaz, Irmak, T. (2008). *The prevalence of child abuse and neglect and durability associated factors.* PhD Thesis, Ege University, Social Sciences Institute, Izmir.

Ziyalar, N. (1999). Preventing child abuse and neglect. *Child Forum,* 2, 31-33.

0-6 Yaş Çocuklara Sahip Ebeveynlerin Çocuk Istismarı Potansiyellerinin Çeşitli Değişkenler Açısından Incelenmesi.

Atıf:

Cetin, Z., Ozozen-Danaci, M. (2016). A multivariate examination of the child-abuse potential of parents with children aged 0-6.*Eurasian Journal of Educational Research*, 66, 71-86, http://dx.doi.org/10.14689/ejer.2016.66.4

Özet

Problem Durumu: Çocuk istismarı karmaşık nedenleri ve trajik sonuçları olan, tıbbi, hukuki, gelişimsel ve psiko-sosyal kapsamlı ciddi bir sorundur (Polat, 2002; Ziyalar, 1999). İstismarın nedenlerinin ve gelişim üzerindeki etkilerinin anlaşılması insan gelişimi konusundaki bilgilerin kapsamı açısından önemlidir (Yılmaz, Irmak, 2008). Bu konuda özellikle aileler çocuk yetiştirme sürecinde bilerek ya da farkında olmadan çocuklarının gelişimini olumsuz yönde etkileyecek davranışlar gösterebilmektedirler. Bu nedenle istismar ve ihmalin tanınması, önlenmesi ve müdahalelerde bulunulması gerekmektedir (Bahar vd, 2009). Buna bağlı olarak da konuya ilişkin ilk etapta ailelerin irdelenmesi amaçlanmıştır. Bazı çocuklar, ana-babaları ya da bazı toplumsal kurumlar tarafından yapılan kötü muameleler sonucu, duygusal ve fiziksel açıdan örselenmektedir. Çocukların bazıları yetişkinlerin cinsel saldırılarına hedef olurken, bazıları da küçük yaşta ağır ve uygunsuz işlerde çalıştırılmakta, hatta bir mal gibi alınıp satılabilmektedir (Gökler, 2006). Ancak genel anlamda çocuk istismarına en çok aile içinde rastlandığı bilinmektedir.

Araştırmanın Amacı: Çocuk istismarı, her kültürde ve toplumda sık karşılaşılan bir sosyal problemdir. Uygulanmış çocuk istismarına yönelik birçok çalışmanın yapılmasından sonra bu araştırma, çocuk istismarının önlenmesine dikkat çekme durumunu ele alarak ebeveynlerin bu yöndeki eğilimlerinin ortaya çıkarılmasını öngören istismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinin çeşitli değişkenler açısından incelenmesi amacıyla yapılmıştır. Çocuk istismarının aile içerisinde de oluşabilmesi sebebiyle çocuğa her açıdan zarar verici ebeveyn tarafından uygulanan istismar olgusunun belirlenmesi konuyla ilgili toplumun aydınlatılması ve bilinçlendirilmesi amacıyla araştırma ebeveynlerin özellikle hangi demografik değişkenlere bağlı olarak istismar uygulama potansiyellerinin arttığının ve ya azaldığının tespit edilmesi ve bu durumların çocuk istismarı açısından değerlendirilmesi amacıyla planlanmıştır.

Araştırmanın Yöntemi: Araştırma tarama modeli ile gerçekleştirilmiştir. Araştırmanın evrenini, 2014-2015 öğretim yılı, bahar döneminde Düzce ili merkezinde ikamet eden ebeveynler ile bu ebeveynlerin 0-6 yaş çocukları oluşturmuştur. Düzce ili merkezinde ikamet eden 92 anne ve 66 baba olmak üzere toplam 158 ebeveyn çalışmanın

örneklemini oluşturmaktadır. Çalışmada, araştırmacı tarafından hazırlanmış olan Ebeveyn ve Çocuk Demografik Özellikler Formu ile Çocuk İstismarı Potansiyeli Envanteri (ÇİPE) kullanılmıştır. Ebeveyn ve Çocuk Demografik Özellikler Formu'nda çocukların yaş, cinsiyet, kardeş sayısı, ikamet yeri ile anne-babaların cinsiyet, yaş, eğitim düzeyi, sosyoekonomik düzeylerine ilişkin sorular yer almaktadır. *(ÇİPE)* ise Milner (1976), tarafından geliştirilmiş çocuk hukuku ve koruma merkezlerinde çeşitli incelemeler ve olgularla ilgili karar vermek amacıyla değerlendirme aracı olarak geliştirilen ÇİPE'nin Türkçe'ye uyarlaması ilk olarak Öner ve Sucuoğlu (1994) tarafından yapılmıştır. ÇİPE'nin psikometrik özellikleri üzerine sayısız geçerlik ve güvenirlik çalışmaları yapılmıştır (Kutsal, 2004; Öner & Sucuoğlu, 1994; Milner, 1994; Robertson ve Milner, 1985; Pruit ve Erickson, 1985). Verilerin istatistiksel çözümlemelerinde Mann Whitney U Testi ve Kruskal Wallis H Testi kullanılmıştır.

Araştırmanın Bulguları: Araştırmadan elde edilen verilere göre cinsiyet değişkenine ilişkin ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümleri arasında ve yaşlarına göre istismar ölçümleri arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark olmadığı görülmektedir. Ebeveynlerin yaşlarına göre istismar ölçümlerine ilişkin sıra ortalamalarına incelendiğinde 36-45 yaş arası ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin yüksek olduğu, bunu sırasıyla 45 üstü yaş ebeveynlerin ve 26-35 yaş arası ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin takip ettiği görülmektedir. İstismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinin en düşük puan aralığı 18-25 yaş arası ebeveynlere denk geldiği görülmektedir. Bu durum bu yaş aralığındaki anne babaların yeni birer ebeveyn oldukları için henüz adapte olma sürecinde olmaları ile ilişkili olabilir. İstismar ölümlerinin en yüksek görüldüğü 36-45 yaş ortalamaları için ise bu yaş grubunun yaşamsal ve geçim ile ilgili sıkıntılarının daha yoğun olması ile ilişkili olduğu düşünülmektedir. Tabloda en düşük İstismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinin 45 üstü ebeveynlerde olduğu görülmektedir. Bu durumun ise ileriki yaşlarda yer alana ebeveynlerin yaşla birlikte hoşgörülü ve ılımlı bir mizaca girmeleri ile ilişkili olduğu düşünülmektedir.

Çalışmada, ebeveynlerin evde yaşayan birey sayısına göre istismar ölçümleri arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark (χ 2=7.112, p <0.05) olduğu görülmektedir. Bu farkın hangi grup ya da gruplar arasında bulunduğunu belirlemek üzere yapılan çoklu karşılaştırma testi sonucuna göre ise evlerinde 6 ve üzeri birey ile yaşayan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin (X=125,61) 2-3 birey ile yaşayan (X=58.94) ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu görülmektedir. 6 ve üzeri birey ile birlikte yaşayan ebeveynlerin istismar puanlarının 2-3 birey ile yaşayan ebeveynlere oranla yüksek olmasına sebep olarak; çocuk sayısının ve aile üyelerinin arttıkça, anne ve babanın çocuklarına vereceği şevkat, hoşgörü ve ilginin azaldığı ve aile üyelerinin arttıkça evdeki sorumluluklarının ve yaşam görevlerinin artarak daha fazla streste bulundukları düşünülmektedir. Veriler incelendiğinde, ebeveynlerin sosyo-ekonomik düzeylerine göre istismar potansiyeli ölçümleri arasında istatistiksel

olarak anlamlı bir fark ve ebeveynlerin ikamet ettikleri yerleşim birimlerine göre istismar potansiyeli ölçümleri arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark olduğu görülmektedir. Bu farkın hangi gruplar arasında olduğunu belirlemek amacıyla yapılan olan çoklu karşılaştırma testi sonucuna göre ise yaşamının çoğunu kasaba/köyde geçirmiş olan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin yaşamının çoğunu büyük şehirde, şehirde, ilçede geçirmiş olan ebeveynlerin istismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu görülmektedir. Bu durumun kasaba/köy yerleşim alanlarında ikamet eden ebeveynlerin daha geleneksel bir yaklaşımla çocuk yetiştirmeleriyle alakalı olduğu söylenebilir.

Araştırmanın Sonuç ve Önerileri: Çalışma sonucunda ebeveynlerin yaş ve cinsiyet değişkenlerine ilişkin çocuk istismarı potansiyellerine yönelik anlamlı bir fark bulunmazken evde yaşayan birey sayısı, gelir durumu ve ikamet ettikleri yerleşim birimlerine göre çocuk istismarı potansiyelleri arasında anlamlı fark bulunduğu tespit edilmiştir. Evlerinde 6 ve üzeri birey ile yaşayan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin 2-3 birey ile yaşayan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu ve ailesi alt sosyo-ekonomik düzeye sahip olan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin ailesi orta sosyo-ekonomik düzeye sahip olan ebeveynlerin istismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu görülmektedir. Ayrıca yaşamının çoğunu kasaba/köyde geçirmiş olan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin yaşamının çoğunu büyük şehirde, şehirde, ilçede geçirmiş olan ebeveynlerin istismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu görülmektedir. Elde edilen bu sonuçlara göre; çocuk istismarının tespit, tedavisinde multidisipliner yaklaşım esastır. Bu sebeple çocuk istismarı yaşandıktan sonra önlemler ve sağaltım yapılmasından ziyade öncelikle istismarın engellenmesi amacıyla bu ihtimali güçlendiren nedenler üzerinde durulmalı, çocuk veya üye sayısı fazla olan aileler, sosyo-ekonomik düzeyi düşük olan aileler, köy/kasaba gibi yerleşim yerlerinde ikamet eden aileler üzerinde bilgilendirmeler ve eğitimler yoğunlaştırılmalı, bu aileler belli periyotlarla izlemeye alınmalıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çocuk, kötüye kullanma, anne, baba.

Copyright of Eurasian Journal of Educational Research (EJER) is the property of Eurasian Journal of Educational Research and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.