

The Relationship Between Health-Promoting Lifestyle Behaviors and Sleep Quality of Nurses Working in the Pediatrics Clinics

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The study was conducted to determine the relationship between health-promoting lifestyle behaviors and sleep quality of nurses working in the pediatrics clinics.

Methods: The study was conducted among nurses working in the pediatrics clinic of a training and research hospital located in Istanbul. Nurse Information Form, Health-Promoting Lifestyle Profile-II (HPLP-II), and Pittsburg Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) were applied to the nurses. Ethics committee and institutional permission, permission from the scale authors via e-mail, and written consent from the nurses were obtained in the study. Besides the descriptive statistics, Mann Whitney U test, Kruskal Wallis test, and Spearman's Rho Correlation analysis were used for the analysis of the study.

Results: Among the 200 nurses that were surveyed, 121 (60.5%) responded. 81% of the nurses (n=98) were female, and 80.2% had a bachelor's degree. Age average of the nurses was 25.74±3.86 years and the average weekly working hours was 49.40±7.70 hours. It was determined that total mean score of HPLP-II was 125.26±16.40 and PSQI total mean score was 12.13±2.29. The lowest mean HPLP-II subscale score was 16.19±4.64 for exercise and 17.71±3.74 for stress management. A statistically significant correlation was found between the HPLP-II total scores and PSQI total scores ($r = -0.19$; $p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: It was determined that the health-promoting lifestyle behaviors of the nurses were above the moderate level, their sleep quality was poor, and there was a significant correlation between the health-promoting lifestyle behaviors and the sleep quality of the nurses. It can be suggested by nursing to conduct the studies determining the practices that will improve the health-promoting lifestyle behaviors of the nurses and enhance their sleep quality.

Keywords: Health Behavior, Health Promotion, Nursing, Pediatric Clinic, Sleep Quality

1. INTRODUCTION

The largest number of healthcare professionals in United States of America is the nurses with 4.1 million (1). According to 2018 data, it has been reported that the number of nurses in Turkey is 190.499 (2). Wellbeing and health of nurses may directly also affect the health of population along with patient care (3,4). Additionally, the quality of nursing care has a direct effect on the patient health outcomes (5). Hospitalized patients need nursing care practices for 24 hours (6,7).

Due to irregular shift schedules, hard work conditions such as fulfillment of physically and psychologically intense nursing tasks, low income and contractual employment, the tendency of nurses to have a unhealthy lifestyle increases

(8) but their tendency to exhibit health-promoting behaviors decreases (9). Nutrition and exercise take place among the most studies health-promoting behaviors (10). In a study conducted with 3132 nurses, it was found that 50% of nurses did appropriate exercise and 62% consumed fast food at least twice a week (11). In a meta-analysis conducted with 145 studies, it was reported that social isolation posed a major risk factor for mortality depending on smoking and alcohol consumption (12). In the study by Etienne (13), it was found that 48% of nurses were exposed to bullying at workplace and 12% were bullied several times a week. Of the nurses, 92% had moderate and high level of stress (14).

Due to the high level of stress, it has been found that nurses experience physical and psychological problems such as poor health (14) and sleep disorders (15,16). Sleep quality is an important factor allowing the nurses to get rid of the work stress, fatigue, and psychological stress. (17). It is stated that due to shift work, nurses experience sleep and mental health problems (15) and nurses reporting poor sleep quality have higher level of 10-year cardio-metabolic risks (18). The poor sleep quality of the nurses increased the malpractice rates at emergency departments (19), it was found that 64% of the nurses working in the day shift, 75.1% of those working in the evening shift, and 79.9% of those working in the night shift had poor sleep quality (20). In a study conducted with 865 nurses, nurses working in the night shift were reported to have poor sleep quality and higher depression rates (21).

Even though several studies for the health-promoting behaviors of the nurses have been conducted in the literature (9,11,13,22,23), no study on the health-promoting behaviors of nurses working in the pediatrics clinics has been found. Also, although in the literature there are studies for the sleeping states of the nurses working at pediatric intensive care services (24,25), no study examining the correlation between the health-promoting behaviors and sleeping states of the nurses working at all the pediatric clinics has been found. Thus, the aim of this study was to determine the relationship between health-promoting lifestyle behaviors and sleep quality of the nurses working in the pediatric clinics.

2. METHODS

2.1. Design and setting

The study was conducted with descriptive-correlational design at a Training and Research Hospital in Istanbul between January and February 2019. Total number of beds in the pediatrics clinics of the hospital where the study was conducted was 183. Of these beds, 28 were at the internal medicine clinic, 22 at surgery, 78 at intensive care, 26 at emergency department, and 29 at hematology-oncology clinic.

2.2. Sample

The population of the study consisted of 200 nurses working in the pediatric clinic. The inclusion criteria were determined as being older than 18 years, being present at the hospital between these dates, speaking Turkish, and being voluntary to participate in the study. It was planned to include all the nurses meeting the criteria in the sample. The exact count method was used in the selection of the sample. However, the sample of the study included 121 nurses (60.5%) since 40 nurses (20%) were not present at the clinic between the study dates and 39 nurses (19.5%) declined to participate in the study. The nurses were working in three shifts as 8.00 am – 4.00 pm, 4.00 pm – 8.00 am, and 8.00 am – 8.00 am.

2.3. Measurements

2.3.1. Nurse Information Form

The information form prepared by researchers for the nurses included the questions about age, gender, weekly working hours, educational background, marital status, having a child, duration of working in the pediatrics clinic, service, and status of liking the profession of nursing.

2.3.2. The Health-Promoting Lifestyle Profile-II (HPLP-II)

The Health-Promoting Lifestyle Profile-II was developed by Walker et al. (26). Turkish validity and reliability study of the HPLP-II scale was conducted by Bahar et al. (27). The profile is a 4-point likert type and consists of 52 items and six factors. These factors are self-actualization, interpersonal support, nutrition, exercise, health responsibility, and stress management. In the assessment of the scale, the lowest score is 52 and the highest score is 208. As the total score increases, it is accepted that the individuals have more health-promoting lifestyle behaviors. Scores in every sub-group are classified in three categories. According to the scores, sub-group is divided in three categories: Weak level ($\leq 49\%$), moderate level (50-74%) and good level ($75 \leq \%$). Cronbach's alpha value of the scale was between 0.79 and 0.87 for six factors and 0.94 for overall scale (26). Cronbach's alpha value of the Turkish version of the scale was between 0.64 and 0.80 for six factors and 0.92 for overall scale (27). In the present study, Cronbach's alpha value of the scale was found between 0.63 and 0.84 for six factors and 0.89 for overall scale.

2.3.3. The Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI)

The Turkish validity and reliability study of PSQI, which was developed by Buysse et al. (28), was conducted by Ağargün et al. (29). PSQI consists of seven components as subjective sleep quality, sleep latency, sleep duration, habitual sleeping efficiency, sleep disturbances, use of sleeping medication, and daytime dysfunction. Total score of the seven components gives the total score of PSQI. Each component is scored between 0 and 3. Total score is between 0 and 21. High values show poor sleep quality and high level of sleep disorder. A total score of > 5 shows that sleep quality is clinically poor (29). Cronbach's alpha value of the original version and Turkish version of the index was 0.80 (28,29). In the present study, the Cronbach's alpha value was found as 0.79 for the overall scale.

2.4. Procedure

Data collection tools were applied by the researchers by conducting face-to-face meetings with the nurses. The nurses, who accepted to participate in the study completed data collection forms in a quiet and empty room for averagely 15 minutes.

2.5. Ethical Considerations

Institutional permission from Provincial Directorate of Health of Istanbul (Date: 02.04.2018; No: 16867222 – 604.01.01), approval from Social and Human Sciences Research Ethics Committee of Istanbul University (Date: 08.01.2018; No: 1), permission from the scale authors via e-mail, and written consent from the nurses were obtained in the study.

2.6. Data Analysis

While assessing the results obtained in the study, the IBM SPSS Statistics 22 program was used for the statistical analyses. Compatibility of the variables to the normal distribution was assessed by Shapiro Wilks test, Q-Q plots, and histograms. In the data assessment, Mann Whitney U test was used for the evaluations between two groups along with the descriptive statistical methods (mean, standard deviation, frequency, percentage). Kruskal Wallis test was used for the assessment of quantitative data between more than two groups. Pearson’s Correlation Analysis was used for the assessment of the correlation between the scale scores. Significance was assessed at the level of $p < 0.05$.

3. RESULTS

The study was conducted with a total of 121 nurses working in the pediatrics clinic 81% (n = 98) female and 19% (n = 23) male. Age average of the nurses was 25.74 ± 3.86 (min = 20; max = 40) years. Average weekly working hours of the nurses were 49.40 ± 7.70 (min = 40; max = 72) hours.

Five nurses were only working in the 8.00 am – 4.00 pm shift. Table 1 shows the sociodemographic characteristics of the nurses.

It was determined that total mean score of HPLP-II was 125.26 ± 16.40 and PSQI total mean score was 12.13 ± 2.29 . Table 2 shows subscale and total score distribution of HPLP-II and PSQI scales.

Table 3 shows the correlation assessment of the subscale and total scores of HPLP-II and PSQI.

In terms of sociodemographic characteristics, no statistically significant difference was found between the total scores of HPLP II and PSQI ($p > 0.05$).

Table 1. Sociodemographic Characteristics of Nurses Working in Pediatrics Clinics (N=121)

	n	%	
Education	High school	10	8.3
	Associate	5	4.1
	BSN	97	80.2
	MSN	9	7.4
Marital status	Married	33	27.3
	Single	88	72.7
Having children	Yes	8	6.6
	No	113	93.4
Working duration in the pediatric clinics	< 1 year	26	21.5
	1 – 5 years	86	71.1
	6 – 10 years	5	4.1
	11 – 15 years	4	3.3
Work unit	Medical	40	33.1
	Surgical	8	6.6
	Intensive care	39	32.2
	Emergency	24	19.8
	Hematology-Oncology	10	8.3
Liking the nursing profession	Yes	104	86.0
	No	17	14.0

Table 2. Distribution of Health-Promoting Lifestyle Profile-II (HPLP-II), Pittsburg Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) subscale and total scores

Scale	Subscale	Min – max	M ± Sd
HPLP-II	Health responsibility	11-32	21.60±3.68
	Physical activity	8-29	16.19±4.64
	Nutrition	9-31	19.57±4.19
	Spiritual growth	17-35	25.42±3.62
	Interpersonal relationships	16-35	24.77±3.64
	Stress management	10-30	17.71±3.74
	Total	88-178	125.26±16.40
PSQI	Subjective sleep quality	0-3	1.36±0.92
	Sleep latency	0-3	1.60±0.69
	Sleep duration	1-10	6.14±1.56
	Habitual sleeping efficiency	0-2	0.09±0.32
	Sleep disturbances	0-3	1.30±0.56
	Use of sleeping medication	0-3	1.64±0.75
	Daytime dysfunction	0-2	1.07±0.83
Total	5-17	12.13±2.29	

Table 3. Relationship between Health-Promoting Lifestyle Profile-II (HPLP-II), Pittsburg Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) subscale and total scores

PSQI	HPLP-II						
	Health responsibility	Physical activity	Nutrition	Spiritual growth	Interpersonal relationships	Stress management	Total
	r; p	r; p	r; p	r; p	r; p	r; p	r; p
Subjective sleep quality	-0.078; 0.397	-0.135; 0.140	-0.042; 0.646	-0.195; 0.032	-0.037; 0.683	-0.321; 0.001**	-0.191; 0.036*
Sleep latency	-0.087; 0.343	-0.026; 0.779	-0.019; 0.835	0.004; 0.964	-0.004; 0.968	-0.152; 0.097	-0.066; 0.471
Sleep duration	-0.067; 0.463	-0.081; 0.377	0.063; 0.489	0.026; 0.778	0.006; 0.951	0.145; 0.113	0.018; 0.843
Habitual sleeping efficiency	-0.147; 0.107	-0.154; 0.092	0.049; 0.597	-0.063; 0.494	0.062; 0.500	-0.210; 0.021*	-0.112; 0.220
Sleep disturbances	0.043; 0.640	-0.061; 0.508	0.180; 0.048	-0.025; 0.782	0.071; 0.438	-0.082; 0.369	0.030; 0.745
Use of sleeping medication	-0.206; 0.023*	-0.246; 0.007**	-0.295; 0.001**	-0.042; 0.644	-0.146; 0.109	-0.402; 0.001**	-0.325; 0.001**
Daytime dysfunction	-0.018; 0.842	-0.204; 0.025*	-0.156; 0.087	0.098; 0.284	0.112; 0.22	-0.234; 0.011*	-0.108; 0.236
Total	-0.181; 0.057	-0.234; 0.011*	-0.026; 0.780	-0.088; 0.335	-0.034; 0.708	-0.257; 0.004**	-0.199; 0.029*

r: Pearson Correlation analysis, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

4. DISCUSSION

In the present study, it was found that the nurses working in the pediatrics clinics had moderate level of health-promoting lifestyle behaviors. Similar to the present study, in the literature (9,22,23,30) it was reported that the health-promoting lifestyle behaviors of general nurses were at a moderate level. It is stated that the decrease in health-promoting lifestyle behaviors of the nurses affects not only them but also the care of nurses, and indirectly affects the quality of nursing services, and community health (31). It is reported that the nurses know the health-promoting lifestyle behaviors, but cannot put them into practice. Insufficient time or talent or not having a strong belief may be regarded among the reasons (32,33).

In the current study, the lowest health-promoting lifestyle behaviors of the nurses working in the pediatrics clinics were determined as exercise and stress management. When examining the results of the study and the studies in the literature conducted on general nurses (9,23), it is seen that the lowest health-promoting lifestyle behaviors are exercise and stress management. In a study, it was reported that the nurses did not have sufficient time for exercise due to their long shifts and long monthly working hours (9). The studies have revealed that the increase in the work stress of the nurses is related to the increasing depression and lower resiliency, job satisfaction, and decreased lifestyle behavior (34,35). The use of holistic approaches or mental health practices (applied awareness, cognitive training, praying, meditation, healing touch, yoga, massage, reiki, etc.) is associated with the ability of the individual to see and care for himself as a whole and the relevant positive health effects (36,37,38).

In the current study, the highest health-promoting lifestyle behaviors of the nurses working in the pediatrics clinics were determined as self-actualization and interpersonal support. When examining the results of the study and the studies in the literature conducted on general nurses (22,23), it is seen that the highest health-promoting lifestyle behaviors are self-actualization and interpersonal relations. The founder of nursing, Florence Nightingale, stated in her theory that "the nurse should help the patient according to his/her vital needs and see this as the purpose of nursing" (39). The main role of nursing is care giving and the main purpose is to help the individuals and population, to find solutions for health problems, and acquire qualification for life. Moreover, profession of nursing sees human as the most valuable being and aims at providing the best quality service to humans by respecting for dignity, values, individuality, integrity, and decisions of human being (40,41).

In the present study, it was determined that the nurses working in the pediatrics clinics had poor sleep quality. In a study conducted on the nurses working in the pediatric and neonatal units, it was reported that the sleep quality of the nurses was poor (24). The same result has been also found in the studies conducted on general nurses (42,43,44,45,46). Changes in the sleeping habits of the nurses working in the shift system affect their sleep qualities and cause sleeping disorders by leading to difficulties in falling asleep (43,44). It is reported that insufficient sleep quality is correlated with drug use (47,48), occupational diseases, and work accidents (48). In a study, it was found that yoga enhanced the sleep quality and decreased the work stress (49).

In the present study, it was determined that there was a significant negative relationship the health-promoting lifestyle behaviors and sleep quality of the nurses working

at the pediatrics clinics. Wrong adjustment of the circadian rhythm due to the shift system causes awake-asleep disorders and affects the sleep quality (50). Poor sleep quality causes fatigue because it affects the decision making process of the nurse and therefore the patient safety and thus, it is a serious issue (51). Insufficient sleep among the nurses working in shifts is correlated with insufficient self-health (52). Thus, a good sleep quality is important to increase the health and work performances of the nurses (53).

The limitations of the study may be that the study was conducted within a certain time period, the other time periods are not known, it was conducted only in a single hospital, no other hospitals were included and the sample belonged to only one institution.

5. CONCLUSION

In the present study, it was found that the nurses working in the pediatrics clinics had moderate level of health-promoting lifestyle behaviors. Additionally, it was determined that the nurses working in the pediatrics clinics had poor sleep quality. Following applications can be recommended in order to improve health-promoting lifestyle behaviors and sleep quality of the nurses; training programs such as undergraduate, graduate, in-service for increasing such behaviors, certificate and/or course programs, regular shift schedules, regular and sufficient rest period, workplace environments providing better conditions, follow up of these behaviors by nurse managers, and formation of protocols supporting these behaviors. Also, studies examining the effect level of such practices on the health-promoting lifestyle behaviors and sleep quality of the nurses can also be conducted.

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