

Evaluation of The Behavior Changes in Mothers Caused by Covid-19 Positivity

Annelerde Covid-19 Pozitifliğinin Neden Olduğu Davranış Değişikliklerinin Değerlendirilmesi

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ÖZET

Amaç: Bu çalışmada Covid-19 pozitif annelerin rol ve ebeveyn davranışlarında meydana gelen değişikliklerin incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır.

Materyal ve Metot: Veri toplamak için sosyo demografik soru formu ile Anlamsal Farklılık Ölçeği-Anne Olarak Kendim (SDÖ) ve Annenin Ebeveyn Davranışı Ölçeği - Ebeveyn Forumları (MPBS) kullanılmıştır. Araştırma Gaziantep ilinde ve Eylül-2020 ayında yapılmıştır. Web tabanlı bir anket tasarlandı. Çalışmada elde edilen verilerin analizinde SPSS 24.0 istatistik paket programı kullanıldı.

Bulgular: Katılımcıların %66,7'si 18-32 yaşları arasında, %66,7'sinin eğitim düzeyi lise ve üzeri, %97,4'ü 1 ve 2 çocuk sahibi ve % 53,8'i ev hanımıdır. Katılımcıların % 84,8'inin kronik bir hastalığı olmadığı, %86,4'ünün evinde yaşlı bir bireyin olmadığı belirlenmiştir. Katılımcıların % 82,9'unun Covid-19 sürecini evde geçirdiği, % 36,4'ünün Ağustos ayında Covid-19 pozitif olduğu, % 62,1'inin ise birden fazla semptomu olduğu bulunmuştur. Ayrıca, katılımcıların %15,2'sinin semptomlarının bir haftada azaldığı, % 47,7'si Covid-19'dan korunmak için hijyen kurallarına uyduğu görülmüştür. Katılımcıların % 93,2'si sosyal çevresi ile ilişkilerinin Covid-19 sürecinden olumsuz etkilendiği ve % 80,3'ünün aile içi ilişkilerinin Covid-19 sürecinden olumsuz etkilendiği belirlenmiştir. Katılımcıların Anlamsal Farklılık Ölçeği-Anne Olarak Kendim toplam puanı 38.63 ± 8.10 idi. 18-32 arası yaşta annelerin Anlamsal Farklılık Ölçeği-Anne Olarak Kendim ortalama puanı diğer annelere göre daha düşüktü ve iki anne grubu arasında (18-32 yaş ve 33 yaş üstü) istatistiksel olarak anlamlıydı. Katılımcıların MPBS toplam puanı 49.03 ± 6.30 idi. Katılımcıların demografik verileri arasında Annenin Ebeveyn Davranışı Ölçeği - Ebeveyn Forumları puanı açısından anlamlılık bulundu. Ancak, her iki grubunda MPBS toplam puan ortalamasının düşük olduğu görülmüştür.

Sonuç: Covid-19 pozitif annelerin annelik rolü ve ebeveynlik davranışları ölçeklerinden düşük puan aldıkları saptanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Annelik rolü, Covid-19, Ebeveyn davranışları.

ABSTRACT

Objective: In this study, it was aimed to examine the changes in the role and parental behaviors of Covid-19 positive mothers.

Material and Method: The questionnaire form and Semantic Differential Scale-Myself As Mother (SDS) and Mothers Parental BehaviorScale -Parental Form (MPBS) were used to collect the data. The research was carried out in Gaziantep, in September, 2020. A web-based survey has been designed. SPSS 24.0 statistical package program was used in the analysis of the data obtained in the study.

Results: of the participants are 66.7% between the ages of 18-32, 66.7% of them have high school or higher education level, 97.4% have 1 or 2 children and 53.8% are housewives. It was determined that 84.8% of the participants did not have a chronic disease, and 86.4% did not have an elderly individual at home. It was found that 82.9% of the participants spent the Covid-19 process at home, 36.4% were positive for Covid-19 in August, and 62.1% had more than one symptom. Also, of participants' 15.2% symptoms decreased in a week, 47.7% of the participants used hygiene rules for actions to protect from Covid-19. 93.2% of the participants' social relations were affected negatively by the Covid-19 process. 80.3% of the participants' family relations were affected negatively by the Covid-19 process. Semantic Differential Scale-Myself as Mother meanscore total score of the participants was 38.63±8.10. Semantic Differential Scale-Myself as Mother meanscore of mothers aged between 18-32 was less than the mothers, and there is statistical significance between the two mother groups (18-32 age and 33 and above age). MPBS total score of the participants was 49.03±6.30. Value was found among the participants' demographic data in terms of MPBS score. However, the mean Mothers Parental Behaviours Scale - Parental Form total score was found to be low in both groups.

Conclusion: As a result of this research, it is determined Covid-19 Positive Mothers of Maternity and Parental Behaviors have lower scores.

Keywords: Mothers role; Covid-19; Parental behaviors.

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INTRODUCTION

Acting as a mother and a parent is a very complex, multi-stage process. The theory and model of being a mother help facilitate the complex parenting process. Mercer has identified four factors that are effective in gaining a motherhood role and emphasised the importance of these factors. These factors are; nursing, individual, health and environment. The transition to the role of motherhood is the process of learning the woman's maternity behaviour. In this process; shaping the identity of the mother, gaining the role of motherhood, which is, becoming a mother is realized (Tomey and Alligood, 1998; Mercer, 2004; Mercer, 2006; Özkan and Polat, 2011; Feenstra et al., 2019).

Maternity role acquisition is a combination of social roles and developmental behaviors and attitudes that begin in the prenatal period, continue in the postnatal period and are completed with the formation of maternal identity development (Tomey and Alligood, 1998; Mercer, 2004; Mercer, 2006; Meighan and Mercer, 2014). The role function area is related to the individual's roles in society and expresses social integrity. The responsibilities that the individual takes throughout her life and all the roles she fulfils are evaluated in this field. The area of mutual commitment includes all interactions of the individual with the environment and the other people (Özkaraman et al., 2012; Taşkın, 2015).

Insufficiency in parenthood is where one or more caregivers show a current or potential inadequacy in providing a constructive environment that supports/nourishes the child's growth and development. This can happen from parents, child, maturational and situational (personal, environmental) reasons. Factors originating from the parent include single parenting, adolescent parenting, abuse, swearing, emotional disorder, alcoholism, drug addiction, terminal disease, acute illness, and accident victims. Factors originating from the child are: Being born with an unwanted pregnancy, having unwanted sex (especially in our culture, a boy is much

more desired), having unwanted characteristics (having an anomaly, looking like someone whose parents do not like), being physically or mentally disabled, having hyperactivity, having a terminal illness. Maturational factors; adolescent parents are situations such as the parents' conflict or abuse with their own parents, parent's surreal expectations from the child, and the child's psycho-social expectations cannot be met. Situational (personal, environmental) factors could be disease, imprisonment / conviction, moving, disruption of the nuclear family, inconsistency of caregiver or care-giving techniques, ignorance, lack of role model, relationship problems, marital conflict, divorce, separation, step parent, a new sibling, care of an elderly, economic problems (Ursavaş et al., 2014; Heydarpour et al., 2017). Many reasons such as illnesses, personal problems and psychological problems can negatively affect maternal roles (Ursavaş et al., 2014). Today, Covid-19 has caused changes in maternal roles (Spinelli et al., 2020). Coronavirus (Covid-19) belongs to the same category of viruses which cause SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) (Huang et al., 2020; Novel, 2020). The virus gives rise to seriously acute respiratory infections and is asymptomatic or mild or acute symptomatic (Huang et al., 2020).

The effects of the interactional behaviours of parents (especially mothers) as primary caregivers, who are among the close environment of children and with whom they interact most in childhood, on children's development have been demonstrated both theoretically and practically (Çalışır, 2003; Mahoney and Mac Donald, 2004). Therefore, this research was planned considering the importance of mothers in child development, and it aims to examining changes in the maternal role of mothers and parental behavior due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

MATERIAL and METHOD

The Population of the Research

While the population of the research was composed of all mothers who use social media, the sample consisted of mothers who were positive for Covid and had children aged 4-9.

Collection of Data

The questionnaire form and Semantic Differential Scale-Myself As Mother (SDS), and Mothers's Parental Behaviour Scale-Parental Form (MPBS) were used to collect the data.

Socio-demographic questionnaire: There are various questions about Covid-19 and motherhood in the socio-demographic questionnaire [age, educational status, residence and region, marital status, occupation, number of children, whether there is a child with chronic disease at home, whether there is a 65-year-old person at home, the date and symptoms of Covid19 disease, reduction in the role of mother whether there is the disease, the place where the disease is (home or hospital ...), the duration of the disease, whether to donate plasma or not, whether to have a Covid-19 vaccine, advice to those who do not have the disease, whether there are those who have the disease around, who is infected by the disease, family and social questions about how it affects their relationships, what measures they take and whether they comply with the measures].

Semantic Differential Scale-Myself as Mother

This measures the evaluation dimensions of "myself as mother" concept. Scoring was obtained by using 11 items of a 22-item scale. These 11 items were distributed among the 22-item opposite adjective pairs (e.g., in the event that the fast-slow adjective pair was taken into consideration for scoring, the moving-moving adjective pair was eliminated). Eleven items constitute 11 opposite adjective pairs with a 7-point.

To prevent the participants from giving biased answers, three items were assessed by reverse scoring. The third, seventh and eighth items were evaluated over "one" point instead of "seven" points. The validity and reliability study of the Turkish version of the scale defined by Walker et al. (1986), based on the factor analysis of responses given by 104 mothers, was conducted by Çalışır (2003). Higher total scores obtained from the scale indicate a positive self-assessment of motherhood. The lowest and highest points obtained from the "Myself as Mother" scale were 11 and 77, respectively. The Cronbach's alpha of this scale was found to be .81 – .85 by Walker et al., and .73-.74 by Çalışır (2003). In this study, Cronbach's alpha of this scale was .69 (Walker et al., 1986).

Mothers Parental Behaviours Scale - Parental Form

Parental Behavior Questionnaire-Parent Form was also developed by Sessa et al., (2001) and adapted into Turkish by Vargün (2019). Also, this scale was developed for mothers with preschool children to evaluate their parental behaviour. This scale examined mothers' parental behaviours in three dimensions: sensitivity, hostility, and structure. The participants answered the relevant items on a 4-point Likert-type scale (1 = strongly agree, 4 = strongly disagree) (Sessa et al., 2001; Vargün, 2019)

Application of the Research

The research was conducted in descriptive and cross-sectional type in Gaziantep-Turkey at September. A web-based survey has been designed (A face-to-face study could not be conducted due to the Covid-19 epidemic). The answers to the questionnaire were obtained by responding online by the participants with the help of their desktop, tablet or laptop computer and mobile devices (Whatsapp, mail, Instagram, etc.) No reward was given to the participants in return for filling out the questionnaire and data were collected through the volunteering of the participants.

Data Analysis

SPSS 24.0 (Statistical Package of Social Sciences for Windows) statistical package program was used to analyze the data obtained in the study. Independent t-test, frequencies analysis were used for statistical calculations. Statistical significance level was taken as $p < 0.05$.

Ethical Dimension of the Research

Ethical permission of the study was taken from A University Ethics Committee Commission on 14.09.2020 (Number of meetings 2020/25). Volunteers of the participants were taken as basis. Interviews were made with the participants who agreed to participate at a time available.

RESULTS

66.7% of the participants are between the ages of 18-32. 66.7% of the participants have high school and above education. 97.4% of the participants have 1 and 2 child. 53.8% of the participants are housewife. 84.8% of the participants haven't chronic ill. 86.4% of the participants don't live with an old person. 82.9% of the participants don't need hospitalization. 36.4% of the participants were Covid-19 positive at August. 62.1% the participants have more than one symptom. Also, most of the participants have weakness (15.2%). 47.7% of the participants used hygiene rules for actions to protect from Covid-19. 93.2% of the participants' social relative affected negative from Covid-19 process. 80.3% of the participant's family relative affected negative from Covid-19 process (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic analysis of research.

Data		n=132	%
Age	18-32 age	88	66.7
	33 and above age	44	33.3
Education	Secondary education and down education	44	33.3
	High school and above education	88	66.7
Child number	1 and 2 child	89	97.4
	3 and above child	43	32.6
Job	Housewife	71	53.8
	Working	61	46.2
Chronic ill	Yes	20	15.2
	No	112	84.8
Living with an old person	Yes	18	13.6
	No	144	86.4
Hospitalization	Yes	23	17.4
	No	109	82.9
Want to be vaccinated	Yes	72	54.5
	No	60	45.5
The month Covid is 19	March	1	0.8
	April	3	2.3
	May	4	3.0
	June	9	6.8
	July	26	19.7
	August	48	36.4

Symptoms	September	41	31.1
	More than one symptoms	82	62.1
	Weakness	20	15.2
	Headache	8	6.1
	Cough	6	4.5
	Fever	5	3.8
	Throat ache	3	2.3
	Shorthess of breath	2	1.5
	Nousea vomiting	2	1.5
	Diarrhea	2	1.5
	Loss of smell and taste	1	0.8
	No symptoms	1	0.8
Actions to protect from Covid-19	I care about my nutrition	25	18.9
	Alternative medicine application	28	21.2
	Vitamin supplements	15	11.4
	Hygiene rules	63	47.7
	Nothing	1	0.8
Impact on social relative	Positive	9	6.8
	Negative	123	93.2
Impact on family relative	Positive	26	19.7
	Negative	106	80.3

SDS total score of the participants were 38.63 ± 8.10 .
SDS mean score of 18-32 between age mothers was

down than other mothers and there is statistical significance between the two mother groups (18-32 age and 33 and above age) (Table 2).

Table 2. Comparison of SDS in terms of demographic data

Data	Group	n=132	X± S.D.	t	p
Mother age	18-32 age	88	37.60±7.44	2.10	0.03
	33 and above age	44	40.70±9.02		
Education status	Secondary education and down education	44	48.20±6.36	1.05	0.29
	High school and above education	88	49.44±6.27		
Job	Housewife	71	38.36±8.78	0.41	0.67
	Working	61	38.95±7.28		
Child number	1 and 2 child	89	37.84±7.98	1.61	0.10
	3 and above child	43	40.27±8.20		
*SDS total score			38.63±8.10		
			min: 15.00		max: 68.00

MPBS total score of the participants were 49.03±6.30. Significance was found among the demographic data of the participants in terms of MPBS score.

But, every group have down MPBS total score mean (Table 3).

Table 3. Comparison of MPBS in terms of demographic data

Data	Group	n=132	X± S.D.	t	p
Mother age	18-32 age	88	37.60±7.44	2.10	0.29
	33 and above age	44	40.70±9.02		
Education status	Secondary education and down education	44	39.15±7.85	0.52	0.59
	High school and above education	88	38.37±8.26		
Job	Housewife	71	48.71±6.65	0.63	0.53
	Working	61	49.40±5.92		
Child number	1 and 2 child	89	49.49±5.73	1.10	0.27
	3 and above child	43	48.04±7.38		
MPBS total score			49.03±6.30		
	min: 34.00 max: 63.00				

DISCUSSION

The findings of this research determined that Covid 19 positivity negatively affected mothers' maternal roles and parental behaviors. We determined that SDS total score of the participants were 38.63±8.10 and MPBS total score of the participants were 49.03±6.30 (Table 2-3). Parents experience burnout due to being at home with their 7-24 children during the Covid-19 epidemic (Chung, 2020; Griffith, 2020). Experts caution that the Covid-19 pandemic is an instance of traumatic stress and will likely worsen existing mental health difficulties and lead to the development of new disorders in others for an extended period of time (Galea et al., 2020; Griffith, 2020). Pines et al. (2020) found that the mental health of parents worsened during the Covid process (Pines

et al., 2020). Also, reports from families during the peak of Covid-19 in the U.S. indicate Covid-19-related stressors are heightened for those caring for children (Park et al., 2020; Russel et al., 2020).

It is stated that maternal role is affected from age, personality traits, educational status, health status, self-concept, health perception, social support, mood and income level of the baby, emotional structure of the mother, environmental and social factors (Heydarpour et al., 2017). But in the research, it was found significant only age factor. SDS mean score of 18-32 between age mothers was down than other mothers and there is statistical significance between the two mother groups (18-32 age and 33 and above age) (Table 2).

82.9% of the participants don't need hospitalization. 36.4% of the participants were Covid-19 positive at August (Table 1). It is thought that the religious sacrifice holiday on these dates and the increase in the intimacy in interpersonal relations during this holiday, the increase in the travels between the provinces (family visits are made) contribute to the increase in the Covid case rates. In addition, the removal of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions in the country as of June also contributed to this situation. The increase in the number of cases in the country on these dates, it is also monitored in the T.R. Ministry of Health Covid-19 Information Page (T.R, 2020).

62.1% the participants have more than one symptoms (Table 1). The most common symptoms at onset of Covid-19 illness are fever, cough, and fatigue, while other symptoms include sputum production, headache, haemoptysis, diarrhoea, dyspnoea, and lymphopenia (Çelik, 2020; Ho et al., 2020; Huang, 2020; WHO, 2020). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization and other major authorities recommend frequent hand washing and applying proper hand hygiene procedures as one of the cheapest, easiest, and most important ways to prevent the spread of a virus (WHO, 2020). We determined that; 47.7% of the participants used hygiene rules for actions to protect from Covid-19 (Table 1). Also, to prevent virus transmission, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends frequent hand washing with soap and water (Crain and Thompson, 1986),

It was determined that; 93.2% of the participants' social relative affected negatively from Covid-19 process. 80.3% of the participants' family relatives affected negative from the Covid-19 process (Table 1). In the studies conducted, it has been reported that the family and social lives of individuals are negatively affected during the Covid process (Marchetti et al., 2020; WHO, 2020). Higher total scores obtained from the scale indicate positive self-assessment of motherhood. The lowest and highest points to be obtained from "Myself as Mother" scale are 11 and 77, respectively (Crain and Thompson, 1986; Çalışır,

2003). SDS total score of the participants were 38.63 ± 8.10 (Table 2). This score was down for mothers. Also, SDS mean score of 18-32 between age mothers was down than other mothers and there is statistical significance between the two mother groups (18-32 age and 33 and above age) (Table 2). The higher scale scores in older mothers can be attributed to the mothers of older ages being more experienced and knowing more about motherhood. MPBS total score of the participants were 49.03 ± 6.30 . Significance was found among the demographic data of the participants in terms of MPBS score. But, every group have down MPBS total score mean (Table 3). In a study conducted during the Covid pandemic process, it was determined that parents were exhausted and needed psychological support (CDC, 2019). Covid-19 lockdown could partially explain parents' feelings of being emotionally drained and insufficiently prepared to meet parental demands. In another study, it was reported that the Covid-19 process had negative consequences on the parental role, the roles of the parents were disrupted due to the stress experienced during this period, and this situation poses a risk to the health of the child (Spinelli et al., 2020). This situation is clearly seen in this study. The role of motherhood was adversely affected during this period. The results obtained in the two scales (SDS and MPBS) evaluating maternal roles in the study were similarly low. According to this result, we can say that the Covid-19 epidemic negatively affected the roles of mothers with Covid-19.

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of this research; it is determined Covid-19 Positive Mothers of Maternal Roles and Parental Behaviors have down scores. SDS total score of the participants were 38.63 ± 8.10 . SDS mean score of 18-32 between age mothers was lower than other mothers and there is statistical significance between the two mother groups (18-32 age and 33 and above age). MPBS total score of the participants were 49.03 ± 6.30 . Significance was found among the demographic data of the participants in terms of MPBS score. But,

every group have lower MPBS total score mean. According to this result, considering that Covid-19 negatively affects the roles of mothers, thus negativities in parental behaviors will reflect on their children, it can be said that child health is at risk.

Also, 84.8% of the participants haven't chronic ill. 86.4% of the participants don't live with an old person. 82.9% of the participants don't need hospitalization. 36.4% of the participants were Covid-19 positive at August. 62.1% the participants have more than one symptom. Also, most of participants have weakness (15.2%). 47.7% of the participants used hygiene rules for actions to protect from Covid-19. 93.2% of the participants' social relative affected negative from Covid-19 process. 80.3% of the participants' family relative affected negative from Covid-19 process. In all these results, it showed us that the Covid epidemic still showed its effect and negatively affected people socially, psychologically and physically.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors report no actual or potential conflicts of interest.

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There are no funders for this study.

The Patient Consent

Patient consent was obtained from the participants in this study.

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