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The perceived problem solving ability and values of student nurses and midwives

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Abstract

Problem solving is defined as a response given in an important and difficult situation, where critical thinking is required for a solution. Problem solving skills determine a person's ability to relate productively. This research was to determine the perceived problem solving ability and values of student nurses and midwives. It was planned as a descriptive research project in the University of Kocaeli's, Higher School of Health (Nursing and Midwifery School) in order to find out how students perceive their own problem solving skills, and to examine the relationship between problem solving skills and personal values.

The data were collected from 218 students by using a questionnaire to determine the characteristics of the students and the "Problem Solving Inventory" (developed by Heppner and Petersen [Journal of Counseling Psychology 29 (1) (1982) 66]) whose reliability and validity for our country had been tested by Ağahin et al. (1993). The scores

reliability and validity for our country had been tested by Azarini et al. (1995). The scores of the subjects were evaluated and analyzed.

Students who describe themselves in accordance with the values of truth (14.2%) and human dignity (19.3%) were also found to evaluate themselves successful in problem solving. Students who expressed that they act systematically (44.5%) and decisively (74.3%) in problem solving were also found to evaluate themselves as successful (47.8%) in problem solving.

The results of our study have shown that education in professional ethics should provide the development of professional values (especially of truth and human dignity).

Concerning value-laden issues education should help students to reach the desired levels of problem solving skills by allowing them to acquire abilities such as self awareness and being inquisitive.



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